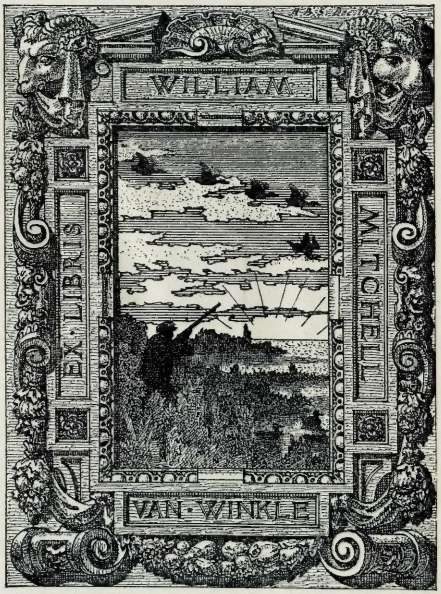
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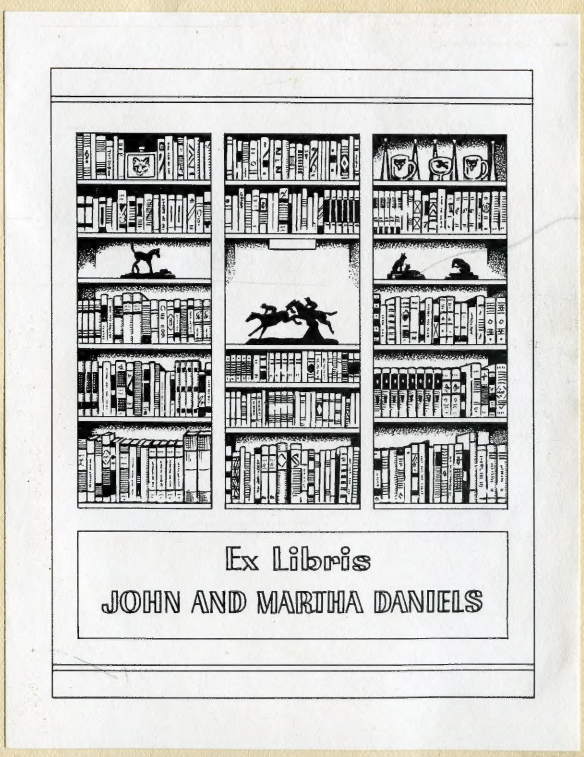


THE SNIPERY AND SERVANTS, OAKLAWN

Frontispiece

TWENTY YEARS' SNIPE-SHOOTING

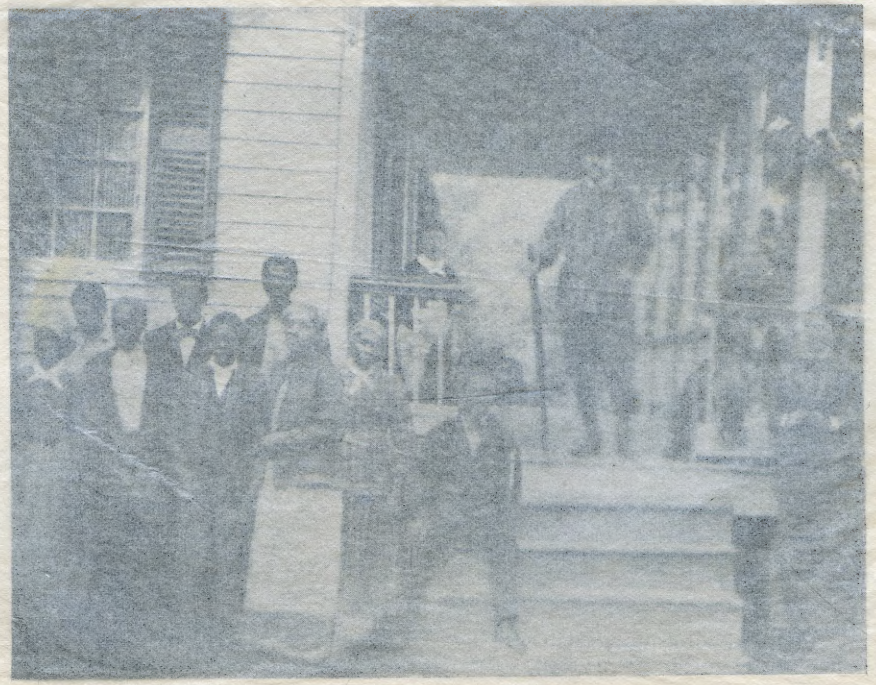
EXTRACTS FROM THE DAILY JOURNAL OF THE GAME-BOOKS OF THE SNIPERY

BY

J. J. PRINGLE

ILLUSTRATED

The Knickerbocker Press
NEW YORK
1899



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J. J. PRINGLE
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To the Cherished Memory of my Friends

THE LATE MRS. AND MISS PORTER

AND TO

MISS MARY PORTER

OF OAKLAWN

WHO SAW A GREAT MANY OF MY BAGS COUNTED, WHO ALWAYS TOOK THE LIVELIEST AND MOST SYMPATHETIC INTEREST IN MY SHOOTING, AND TO WHOSE CONSTANT FRIENDSHIP AND CHARMING SOCIETY I AM INDEBTED FOR MANY HAPPY YEARS ON THE BANKS OF THE TECHE, THESE REMINISCENCES WITH WHICH THEY WERE SO PLEASANTLY AND INTIMATELY CONNECTED, ARE AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED IN GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE OF OUR LONG YEARS OF CLOSE FRIENDSHIP AND GOOD COMRADESHIP

PREFACE

THE contents of this book consist almost entirely of extracts from the Daily Journal of the game-books of the Snipery, where for many years I enjoyed uncommonly good snipe-shooting.

The record is so phenomenal for "snipe-shooting" that it is as well to say that my game-books were kept with the greatest accuracy.

Every day on coming in from shooting, the birds were taken from the game-box of the wagon and laid out in rows of twenty, and the numbers reported to me, when I always counted them over carefully myself, and at once set the numbers down in the game-books, from which the following extracts are made.

As a friend staying with me, who observed the extreme exactness with which the birds were counted and recorded, once rather quaintly remarked: "You could take your game-book into court and swear to every bird."

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The illustrations are chiefly from kodaks. Those of the Snipe Grounds were taken very informally while the author was out shooting. The others are reproduced from crude and imperfect photographs, and they were not intended for publication.

TWENTY YEARS' SNIPE-SHOOTING

TWENTY YEARS' SNIPE-SHOOTING

CHAPTER I

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SNIPERY—DESCRIPTION OF THE ATTAKAPAS AND TECHE COUNTRY

MANY years ago I went to the Attakapas country, in the southwestern part of Louisiana, and spent some time there shooting, finding an abundance of game, wild fowl of all kinds, snipe, and in cold weather many woodcock.

In the autumn of 1867, two years after the ending of our Civil War, I went there again to look after some property in which I was interested, and in November established a shooting-box on the Camperdown plantation.

From December 2, 1867, which was my first day's shooting on my later visit, I kept a game-book with a regular and accurate record of my snipe-shooting, and from it the following extracts are made.

For a description of the country over which I shot, I quote from a book of my friend, the late General Richard Taylor, who commanded the Confederate army in Louisiana, called *Destruction and Reconstruction*. He says:

"A few miles from Berwick's Bay there enters from the west the Bayou Teche, loveliest of southern streams, navigable for more than one hundred miles, preserving at all seasons an equal depth and breadth; so gentle in its flow that it might be taken for a canal, did not the charming and graceful curves by which it separates the undulating prairies of Attakapas from the alluvion of the Atchafalaya, mark it as a work of nature. . . .

"Before the war the Teche for fifty miles above Berwick's Bay to New Iberia passed through one field of sugar-cane.

"Fertile and well cultivated estates succeeded each other. The mansions of the opulent planters, as well as the villages of their slaves, were generally situated on the west bank of the Bayou, overlooking the broad verdant prairies, where countless herds roamed.

"On the east bank, the dense forest had given way to fields of luxuriant cane, and to connect the two parts of an estate floating bridges were constructed, with openings in the centre for the passage of steamers.

"Stately and spreading live oaks—the growth of centuries—orange groves, and flowers of every hue and fragrance surrounded the abodes of the seigneurs, while within was found the grace of the salon with the healthy cheeriness of country life. Abundance and variety of game encouraged field sports, and the waters, fresh and

salt, swarmed with fish. With the sky and temperature of Sicily, the breezes from prairie and gulf were as health-giving as those that rippled the heather on the Scottish moors. . . .

"The Teche waters the parishes of St. Mary, New Iberia, St. Martin, Lafayette, and St. Landry—the Attakapas home of the Acadians.

"In the middle of the past century, when the victories of Wolfe and Amherst deprived France of her northern possessions, the inhabitants of Nouvelle Acadia, the present Nova Scotia, migrated to the genial clime of the Attakapas, where beneath the flag of the lilies they could preserve their allegiance, their traditions, and their faith. Isolated up to the time of the war, they spoke no language but their own patois, and reading and writing not having come to them by nature, they were dependent for news on their curés and occasional peddlers, who tempted their women with chiffons and trinkets. The few slaves they owned were humble members of their household, assisting in the culture of small patches of maize, sweet potatoes, and cotton, from which last the women manufactured the wonderful 'Attakapas cottonade,' the ordinary clothing of both sexes.

"Their little cabanes dotted the broad prairie in all directions, and it was pleasant and picturesque to see the smoke curling from their chimneys, while herds of cattle grazed at will around.

"Here unchanged was the French peasant of Fénelon and Bossuet, of Louis le Grand and his successor Le Bien Aimé. Tender and true were his traditions of La Belle France, but of France before Voltaire and the Encyclopædists, the Convention and the Jacobins. . . .

"Mounted on his pony, lariat in hand, he herded his cattle, and shot and fished, etc."

The above is a very fair description of the country as I first knew it, and as it continued for the first fifteen or sixteen years of my shooting. There was a *couleur locale* about it which was very picturesque and attractive. I remember one day, of my first season's shooting, on passing through the yard of an Acadian, I said to him while drinking a glass of water from his cistern: "This is a fine country you have here." "Yes, sir!" he replied, "it is a good country. A man can live here very comfortably without much money. It is a good climate; he can grow plenty of corn for bread; can raise plenty of cattle, pigs, and poultry without any trouble; and there is an abundance of game and fish of all kinds; so he can live well at a small expense."

Throughout all the years that I shot the country, my intercourse with the Acadians was of the very pleasantest. They always cheerfully gave me the right of way through their yards and premises, and they not only made no objection to my shooting over their lands, pastures, and fields, but seemed pleased that I should do so; and when they knew of any birds being on their lands, or anywhere, would always tell me.

The condition of the country, as described by General Taylor, and as I found it in December, 1867, and as it continued for a good many years after, was, however, quite changed in later years by the exten-

sion of the New Orleans and Opelousas Railway, now called the Southern Pacific, from Berwick's Bay, its then terminus, to Franklin, eight miles from the Snipery, and afterwards to San Francisco, California, etc.

And the prairies and marshes which previously had been grazed over by herds of cattle, affording excellent feeding grounds for the snipe, were after a time fenced, drained, and tilled, and the snipe grounds within reach of the Snipery, over which I had been shooting, were gradually curtailed, and eventually entirely destroyed.

And that local coloring which Taylor so well described, and which was so unique and peculiar, quite disappeared.

CHAPTER II

DESCRIPTION OF THE SNIPE GROUND: SEA-MARSHES, ETC.

THE grounds over which I shot consisted of low-lying marshes, with a growth of green aquatic weed, which I called "blue iris," a species of lily, bearing a beautiful blue flower in spring, and other water-weeds and -grasses, affording excellent cover for the birds.

Adjacent to these low marshes, which I called "the lower grounds," about fifteen to thirty inches above their level, sloping down to them with a gradual and almost imperceptible descent, was a low undulating prairie, which I called "the upper grounds"; in the depressions of which also grew the blue iris and other water-grasses.

The birds were generally found on the lower grounds in dry weather, or when there had not been rain enough to submerge them, but in wet weather, when these lower marshes were too much flooded, they resorted to the upper grounds.

THE SNIPERY, CAMPERDOWN

Sometimes, in wet weather, they were found in numbers in the corn-fields; also, at times, on freshly plowed land, especially freshly plowed turf land, but not very frequently.

The walking, as "snipe-shooting walking" goes, was uncommonly good, so that I could get over the ground at a good pace, which in a measure accounts for my bags having been so large; though, of course, at times and places the ground was deep and rotten, and the walking hard.

The coast of Louisiana bordering on the waters of the Gulf of Mexico is fringed with a large extent of low-lying marshes, intersected by numerous bayous or creeks, cutting them into islands, and on the gulf side indented with several large bays, notably "Atchafalaya Bay," "Côte Blanche Bay," "Vermillion Bay," etc., into which run the creeks intersecting the marshes.

These marshes are at times overflowed by the waters of the Gulf of Mexico, and being very low and flat, the rain-water lies on them and, mixing with the salt left by the overflowing salt water of the gulf, makes them brackish.

These overflows prevent the low places from getting hard and baked in time of drought, as the inland marshes do, and keep them more or less soft and fit, affording good feeding grounds for the birds.

So in dry weather, when the inland marshes are too dry and hard, the snipe resort in great numbers to "The Burns," on the salt or brackish ones, where

the grass and weeds have been burned off, or have been tramped down by the cattle.

Snipe are very fond of ground that has been burned off.

I think there are seasons, though very rarely, when the rainfall has been so small that the sea-marshes become too salt,—salt instead of brackish,—so that the birds will not resort to them. For though snipe like brackish marshes at times, they will not frequent salt ones.

This was the case in 1889–90, a year of great drought, when there were no birds to be found, either on the inland or sea-marshes; and the shooting that season was a total failure.

The sea-marshes were out of my reach, being too far from the Snipery.

I shot them very seldom, only when the inland marshes were so unfit that no birds were to be found on them. On a few occasions (notably in March, 1885, on Bayou Cochon), I found great numbers of birds.

But the sea-marsh shooting was not so pleasant as that on the inland ones. For the walking on the former was very hard, even for "snipe-shooting," the ground being very rotten and boggy, full of muskrat holes and runs, "prairie-tremblante," in many places; and the marshes being cut up into islands by the impassable intersecting creeks, it was often impossible to follow up the birds.

Covered as these marshes were with tall, coarse

grass and weeds, many deer were to be found on them, and on some of them (notably Mulberry Island) immense numbers of geese, brant, and ducks of all kinds.

Between the inland marshes and the sea-marshes was a large extent of low-lying woodland, very low and swampy, timbered chiefly with the flat-head cypress; ridges of slight elevation, with a growth of live and other oaks, gum, and ash, interspersed through them. Bear and deer were to be found in these woods.

There were also small ridges or islands of woods scattered through the prairie and inland marshes, with a growth principally of live oaks—beautiful trees.

Altogether, though a flat, it was a very picturesque, weird-looking country, with its wide extent of solitary low-lying marshes, ducks and other aquatic birds flying about them in great numbers at times.

CHAPTER III

MY WAY OF SHOOTING—GROUNDS SHOT OVER, ETC.

I have shot a good deal in various parts of the world, but for "wild shooting" the shooting for the greater part of these twenty years surpasses any "wild shooting" I have ever had.

It was, too, a very sporting kind of shooting, the snipe being such great migrants, breeding two or three thousand miles away. The climate in winter was excellent, and the grounds over which I shot, though very extensive, and therefore sometimes involving long drives, were within reach of home, and I always bathed in my own bath, dined at my own table, and slept under my own roof; comforts which are seldom the accompaniments of such very "wild shooting."

The situation of my shooting quarters combined the advantages of remoteness and accessibility.

As a rule, when the birds were abundant, I kept the dog (setter or pointer) at heel, and only used him to "find dead," *not* to retrieve, for a dog sent

THE SNIPERY LANDING, ON BAYOU TECHE

out to retrieve would have put up many birds which would have gone off, some of them unshot at; and with such migrants as snipe, it used to annoy me as much to let a bird, rising within gunshot, go off unshot at, as to miss one.

By walking to the dead birds and picking them up myself I got many more shots. This gave me more walking, but more shooting.

I had a negro (one of my old slaves), Henry, who was a wonderful marker, and it was his business in a hot corner, when the birds were rising fast and the shooting was rapid, to mark down and keep count of the dead birds, and report to me the number down.

Then, he keeping his place, I would walk to the dead birds, he telling me as nearly as possible the whereabouts of each.

At times, when the birds were numerous, I would sometimes have ten or twelve down at the same time, and by pursuing this plan, in going from one to another, by the time I had gathered all, I would perhaps kill several more; the majority of which would have escaped unshot at had I sent a dog or man out for them.

Henry was very expert and exact in his marking, and it was astonishing with what precision he could mark down and remember the locality of several dead birds at the same time. My field-staff consisted of a man to drive the wagon when I was shooting (when not shooting, I always drove myself), my man, Henry, to carry spare cartridges and

the birds, and at times (especially when I expected to find many birds) I took another man or boy, sometimes two more, to act as beaters, carry cartridges, game, etc.

On reaching the ground and getting out of the wagon, I would station it on a ridge, with orders to keep within signalling distance, and when I required more cartridges, or my men had as many birds as they could well carry, I would signal, and it would come to me as fast as possible.

For to make big bags in the short winter days, there was not much time to lose; and the cartridge bags would be replenished and the birds put in the game box.

When the birds were abundant, I never allowed the dog to range, but kept him at heel, using him only to "find dead." For the snipe is a very wild bird, with but little scent, and a dog, however good and careful, would flush out of distance many more birds than he would point.

And even those birds that would lie to a point, and that the dog would stand, were so restless and uneasy that they would often flush before I could get to them, unless I happened to be near.

When the birds were at all abundant it was an exception, and a rare one, to kill a bird over a point.

When practicable, I shot down-wind, with a marker or beater walking quite abreast of me, about fifteen yards off; with two beaters, one on each side of me.

I would have the wagon meet me to leeward, and when I got to the end of the beat I would drive over the ground I had just beaten (so as not to disturb the rest of it) to windward, and take another parallel beat down-wind, and so on until I had shot all that ground out.

Oftener, however, I would begin on the weather side of the ground, and beat across wind.

My beaters, if I had more than one, were then both to leeward of me, the one next to me about fifteen yards off and somewhat behind me, the other the same distance from the first and a little behind him.

So, as snipe on rising generally fly to windward, I got shots at the birds rising, not only before me, but before my beater or beaters.

This would give me longer shots, but more of them.

In shooting up-wind—which from the lay of the ground I sometimes found it convenient to do—my marker would walk on a parallel line with me, about fifteen yards off and well behind—the wilder the birds, the farther behind; with two beaters, one on each side of me, I walking in the middle and well ahead.

Indeed, I reduced the shooting of the grounds to a system (to which, to a certain extent, was due my large bags), so as to get each day as many birds as possible, in as short a time as possible.

After a while, I became so familiar with the grounds, and got to know them so well, that I could

generally—though, of course, not always—form a pretty accurate idea of where the most birds were likely to be found under certain conditions of weather, amount of rainfall, etc.; and it pleased me more to kill fifty snipe, shooting the right grounds, at the right time, and working them in the right way, and getting all that was possible under the circumstances, than to kill a hundred and to have so muddled the shooting as not to have killed as many as I should have.

The birds being such great migrants, and only in the country for a short time, I had no mercy on them, and killed all I could, for a snipe once missed might never be seen again.

Very different from pheasants, partridges, and grouse, which if not got one day, or even one season, might be the next.

And let me here say, that every bird I killed was utilized—not one wasted; for the people of the country were not only a snipe-shooting but a snipe-eating people, and the birds I gave away were highly appreciated by all sorts and conditions of men and women.

I, of course, gave a great many to the proprietors of the lands over which I shot, many to my neighbors, and, being not far from New Orleans, I sent many to friends there.

Though I am not a pot-hunter, I never cared to shoot game to be thrown away.

I never wore waterproofs, but shot in knicker-

bockers and laced boots, and took the wet, changing my clothes after shooting; for the first eight or nine seasons, not until after reaching home—a mistake, for it was not only uncomfortable but unhealthy to drive so long and so far, sometimes in very cold weather, in wet clothes, at times wet almost to my waist in crossing coulées and deep places on the marsh; so after the first eight or nine seasons, I always changed on the ground before getting in the wagon.

For the first few seasons I shot with guns of Lang, Purdey, and Grant; afterwards, altogether with Purdey's hammer cylinder; then, when they came in, with hammerless choked (the perfection of guns, in my opinion)—they shot so hard, wore so well, and handled so beautifully as to leave nothing to be desired—weighing 6 lbs., 10 ozs.

I used No. 9 chilled shot, sometimes No. 8 for the left barrel; I stuck to black powder for a long time, for I always had a feeling that it shot stronger. Eventually, however, I used Schultz, though to the end I occasionally used black for the second barrel.

I shot with only one gun at a time; had no loader, but loaded my gun myself; had I shot with two guns and had a loader, I would, of course, have killed a great many more birds, but in those days and in those parts it was impossible to get a man that could be trusted to load, and it would have been hard to train a green hand; and even with an efficient loader, it would have been, at times,

awkward for him to hand me a second gun, floundering about in the mud, as we often would have been.

Then, too, the drives to and from the grounds were sometimes so long, and the roads so bad, it was not easy to take to the field more attendants than were absolutely necessary.

From much practice, however, I became very expert and quick in loading. Keeping my cartridges loose in an open pocket, I slipped them in with great rapidity in a hot corner.

As a 'Cagian friend, who lived on Cypre-Mort, once said to me in his broken English :—" We, out here on Cypre-Mort, can always tell when you come home by de sound of your gun ; no oder man eber shoots so quick like you."

Though much exposed to wet and cold, I was never prevented from shooting by ailment of any kind, except once in the season of 1878–79, when I had a severe attack of rheumatic gout, complicated with malaria, but it did not prevent my killing that season 3085 snipe in twenty-nine days.

Take it all in all, considering the wildness and migratory habits of the birds, it was the most attractive and enjoyable shooting I ever experienced.

I shot almost altogether on the Camperdown and Cypre-Mort grounds; both very extensive inland marshes, with low prairies and sloughs adjacent, to which the birds resorted when the lower marshes were submerged.

The Camperdown grounds comprised : " The Old

Fields of Camperdown," "High-Prairie," "Deep-Prairie," "Flag-Slough," "Lacy-Sloughs," "Lacey-High-Grounds," "Lacy-Pond," "The Great-Sloughs," "The Shallow-Sloughs," "The Harding-Ground," "The Wood-Ground," "The Two-Oak-Tree-Ground," "The Henry-Ground," and "The Loggaman-Ground."

The Cypre-Mort grounds comprised: "First Dumesnil," "Second Dumesnil," "The Heart of Dumesnil," "First Cypre-Mort," "Second Cypre-Mort," "Lockley," "Penn-Pasture" (latterly Patout Pasture), "Baudin" (later Patout), "Pellerin," "Calisse," "Ninety-six Ground," "Timoon Prevost" or "Western Pasture," "Segur," "Emil Baudin," "Penn-Sloughs," "Penn-Meadows," "Penn-Ponds," "Emil Prevost," "Bitot," "Emil Pete," "Sorrell," "Three-Hundred-Ground," "Loyon," "Cypre-Mort Prairie," "François," "Longinais." Also "Jennerett" and "Kilgour," though seldom, as they were too far off.

In later years (though rarely, for they were too far off and inaccessible from the Snipery, and I only shot them when there were no, or few, birds on the inland marshes) the sea or brackish marshes of Bayou Cochon, Cow, Doe, and Baker Islands, and also "Myers' Marsh."

During the Civil War the Parish of St. Mary was overrun by the Federal troops under General Banks, and the greater part of the cattle which grazed on the prairies were carried off; the slaves were manumitted, and for the most part left the plantations,

which were neglected and uncultivated; the fences were torn down or burned, and the drainage was destroyed.

So that when I began shooting the country, and for some time after, the abandoned and undrained plantations and the adjacent prairies afforded good feeding ground for the snipe, which resorted to them when the lower grounds were submerged. And as the country was practically fenceless, I could drive across the unenclosed fields and prairies and pass with great facility from one ground to another, getting the cream of several grounds in a day's shooting.

As the country recovered from the ravages of the war, the abandoned lands were gradually fenced and reclaimed, and also the greater part of the outlying virgin prairie, which had heretofore been used as pasturage and never cultivated, was also enclosed and put under tillage.

And this was the case not only with the higher grounds, but with the lower marshes; for they, too, were ditched, and being drained by machinery, were also put in cultivation, and so the snipe grounds were all eventually destroyed.

WALKING THE MARSH

CHAPTER IV

METHOD OF KEEPING MY GAME-BOOKS

AS snipe-shooting was the specialty of the Snipery, my game-books were practically records of "Snipe-Shooting."

The snipe killed on the unnumbered days were those I came across when shooting other game, or on parts of days, when for some reason or other I only shot for a short time, or parts of days in October and April, before the season began, or after it was ended; for the shooting, as a rule, began on the 1st of November, and ended in the latter part of March—about the 15th on an average.

In the beginning of the game-book all the days on which I went out at all are numbered as snipe-shooting days, and also parts of days in October and April, whether I shot an hour or a day; but this was misleading, as not giving an accurate account of the days shot. So latterly I only numbered as "snipe-days" those on which I shot for at least two hours.

× see preface

The number killed on these broken days did not amount to much in "the twenty years," though I have included them in the total, but have always noted the number killed on them.

On the other hand, before I had adopted this rule of not numbering the broken days, I had already numbered a good many parts of days on which I shot for only a short time, which I had counted as whole days, and which I have let so stand. In fact there are included in the total many more birds killed on parts of days, which are numbered as snipe or whole days, than on parts of days unnumbered.

My object in numbering the days was to know how one season compared with others. I have put down "the Various" (Partridges, Woodcock, Wild Duck, Teal, Rail, etc.), though they are of no importance, for except on very few occasions—three or four only, when I went for woodcock, and on "the Lake Arthur Expedition" for grouse—I never went in for anything but snipe, and only when shooting them, I killed of other birds those I came across, never going out of my way for them, but taking them in my stride.

I rarely killed two snipe at a shot; so rarely that I always made a note of it when I did.

As a rule, I have only made extracts of those days on which I killed 100 snipe or upwards, except occasionally of smaller bags, when made at the end of a month, when I summed up the total of that

month's shooting, or when there was some unusual incident to be noted.

Living very much alone, it amused and interested me at the end of every day to note very fully the incidents and details of the day's shoot; the weather, amount of rain, condition of the grounds, where most of the birds were found, etc.

To do so not only amused and interested me, but was to a certain extent useful, as enabling me to judge more or less correctly what grounds it was best to shoot, at certain times and under certain conditions.

For instance, at the end of the fifth season, 1871–72, I had killed on the Camperdown grounds 8091 snipe in 85 days, and on the Cypre-Mort 8094 in 72½ days, shooting those grounds respectively on such days as I thought each would be most fit; on Jennerett to that date I had killed 966—a total of 17,151 snipe in the five seasons.

It is owing to this habit of going so fully into details and giving so many particulars of each day's shoot in writing up the daily journal of my game-books, that I am able now to give so full an account of the twenty years' shooting.

These extracts, though much condensed, are almost verbatim from my game-books.

All the birds recorded in the following pages were killed *to my own gun.*

When I had friends shooting with me, the birds I killed were kept entirely separate from those shot

by my companions. The man who carried my birds carried those of no one else, those killed by my friends being kept apart, they keeping their own scores.

The necessity of this is obvious, to keep my score continuously correct.

CHAPTER V

EXTRACTS FROM THE "DAILY JOURNAL" OF THE GAME-BOOKS OF THE SNIPERY

FIRST SEASON, 1867–68

IN November, 1867, I established the "Camperdown Snipery," so called because it was on the Camperdown plantation.

I organized the establishment hurriedly on my return from Europe, and was very badly equipped for shooting, for I had no shooting wagon, and was obliged to send my servants, dog, ammunition, etc., to the grounds in a mule-cart, which was a slow business; I riding to and from them on horseback, sometimes twelve or fourteen miles, which in cold weather in my wet clothes was very disagreeable, as at times I got very wet.

The first day—2d of December, 1867—I shot only for a short time, as I did not know the grounds, killing 47 snipe. The 3d of December, also for a

short time, 29. On the third day, 4th of December, I did better, as follows:

1867, December 4th; Wednesday; 3d day's shooting;

CYPRE-MORT;

102 SNIPE. Dumesnil and Baudin grounds. Warm day, fresh west wind.

Birds were lying well in some places, wild in others.

I shot these Cypre-Mort grounds for the first time to-day.

178 SNIPE killed to date.

1867, December 6th; Friday; 5th day's shooting;

CYPRE-MORT;

117 SNIPE. Dumesnil and Baudin grounds.

Fresh south wind and cloudy.

Birds wild, until about noon, when they lay well.

323 SNIPE killed to date.

1867, December 31st; 6th day's shooting;

CYPRE-MORT;

126 SNIPE. Dumesnil and Baudin grounds.

Fresh north wind and very cold; freezing nearly all day.

449 SNIPE killed to date.

1868, January 30th; Thursday; 7th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

110 SNIPE; 1 partridge; 111 head.

Prairie and Sloughs.

North wind; clear, bright, cold day; ice on the ground nearly all day.

559 SNIPE killed to date.

1868, February 17th; Monday; 13th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

109 SNIPE; 3 rail; 112 head.

925 SNIPE killed to date.

Otho Williams, who arrived on the evening of the 15th, shot to-day; his score not included above.

1868, February 18th; Tuesday; 14th day;

JENNERETT AND KILGOUR;

78 SNIPE; 2 partridges; 2 rail; 82 head.

I drove to Jennerett to-day and shot those grounds for three and a half hours in the afternoon.

1003 SNIPE killed to date.

Williams and Gravemberg shot; their scores not included above.

1868, February 19th; Wednesday; 15th day;

JENNERETT;

111 SNIPE; 2 hares; 3 rails; 116 head.

1114 SNIPE killed to date.

Williams and Gravemberg shot; their scores not included above.

1868, April 2d; Thursday; 24th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

14 SNIPE.

I tried Camperdown prairie and sloughs to-day to see if there were any birds still here; found very few; killed nearly all I saw.

Though I nominally shot 24 days this season, on many of them I shot for only a very short time, as, not knowing the country, I lost much time in exploring it, and finding the likeliest places. I hope to do better next season.

FIRST SEASON, 1867–68; 24 DAYS' SHOOTING

SNIPE.	Partridge.	Woodcock.	Hares.	Wild Duck.	Teal.	Rail.	Garde-Soleil.	Grouse.	Plover.	HEAD.	
1861	27	..	3	..	..	25	..	..	..	1916	24 days. 1867–68.
											Killed previously.
1861	27	..	3	..	..	25	..	..	..	1916	To date.

CHAPTER VI

EXTRACTS FROM THE "DAILY JOURNAL" OF THE GAME-BOOKS OF THE SNIPERY

SECOND SEASON, 1868–69

1868, October 31st; 1st day;

CAMPERDOWN;

19 SNIPE; 5 partridges; 9 rail; 6 garde-soleil; 39 head.

I had out to-day for the first time my new shooting wagon, also two new horses, Tom and Jerry, beginning the season much better equipped than I was the last, for I got in New York a four-wheeled dog-cart, called a "Thompson's Glasgow," very convenient and commodious. Altogether an admirable shooting wagon.

Then, too, after my experience of last season, I know the country pretty well, and will not have to lose so much time in explorations and looking for the likeliest places.

1868, November 20th; Friday; 4th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

162 SNIPE; 3 rail; 1 garde-soleil; 166 head.

Dumesnil and Baudin and small sloughs opposite Dumesnil's sugar-house.

Fresh north wind and clear, bright day.

310 SNIPE killed to date.

My weight 166 lbs.

I arrived last evening from New Orleans.

Ther. 42°.

1868, November 23d; Monday; 5th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

157 SNIPE; 1 rail; 2 garde-soleil; 160 head.

Dull, cloudy day; birds rather wild.

467 SNIPE killed to date.

1868, November 30th; Monday; 8th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

73 SNIPE; 11 rail; 1 garde-soleil; 85 head.

634 SNIPE killed in November; 7 days' shooting.

653 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 44°.

1868, December 5th; Saturday; 9th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

196 SNIPE; 1 hare; 9 rail; 206 head.

Dumesnil and Baudin. Much water on the ground from heavy rain on the 3d. Southerly wind, and clear, bright day.

Birds numerous but scattered.

849 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 38°.

1868, December 8th; Tuesday; 11th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

149 SNIPE; 32 rail; 2 garde-soleil; 183 head.

Much water everywhere. Birds scattered but lying well.

Light north wind; clear, bright day.

1071 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 29°.

1868, December 24th; Thursday; 12th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

208 SNIPE; 1 hare; 8 rail; 2 garde-soleil; 219 head.

Dumesnil and Baudin.

Cold north wind all day; cloudy until one, when it cleared off, with a bright sun.

Birds very wild at first, but lying well the latter part of the day.

Freezing all day; ice formed on the seat of my knickerbockers, when I stopped shooting and went to the wagon.

This is my first bag of over 200 snipe.

1279 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 27°.

I arrived from New Orleans on the evening of the 22d.

1868, December 26th; Saturday; 13th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

93 SNIPE; 20 rail; 2 garde-soleil; 115 head.

Shot the sloughs from 10 to 4.

1372 SNIPE killed to date.

Henry Duncan, who arrived on the evening of the 24th, shot; his score not included above.

1868, December 30th; Wednesday; 15th day;
CAMPERDOWN;

71 SNIPE; 1 partridge; 4 rail; 1 garde-soleil; 77 head.

Prairie and sloughs. No birds in the deep prairie, which was flooded. Birds chiefly on ridges between the sloughs. Cloudy with showers at intervals.

871 SNIPE in December; 7 days' shooting.

1524 SNIPE killed to date.

Henry Duncan shot; his score not included above.

1869, January 4th; Monday; 16th day;
CAMPERDOWN;

113 SNIPE; 6 partridge; 2 rail; 121 head.

Shot the sloughs and adjacent old fields. Very dark, cloudy day with much thunder and lightning; showers of rain all morning at intervals till 11:30, when a steady rain came on, which lasted till 4 o'clock.

Birds lying on the ridges and in the old sedge fields in the middles between the rows.

1637 SNIPE killed to date.

1869, January 13th; Wednesday; 18th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

151 SNIPE; 4 rail; 155 head.

Dumesnil, Baudin, and Pellerin.

Birds wild and much scattered and not very numerous.

1871 SNIPE killed to date.

I left for New Orleans on the 8th and returned last evening.

1869, January 13th; Tuesday; 20th day;
KILGOUR AND JENNERETT;

71 SNIPE; 5 rail; 1 garde-soleil; 77 head.

Cloudy, dark day with an east wind. Killed most of the birds on Kilgour.

I left the Snipery at 6.45 A.M., reaching Gravemberg's at 9.45. Roads very muddy and heavy. Slept at Gravemberg's.

2022 SNIPE killed to date.

1869, January 20th; Wednesday; 21st day;
JENNERETT AND KILGOUR;

115 SNIPE; 1 hare; 4 rail; 2 garde-soleil; 122 head.

Begun on the burnt ground back of Fayé, and drove round by Kilgour, shooting by the way; had only 35 birds by one o'clock; when finding a good many birds on Jennerett, I finished the day there.

I found a great many in a small corn-field near Jennerett.

Though not a large bag, a very enjoyable day.

2137 SNIPE killed to date.

1869, January 21st; Thursday; 22d day;
JENNERETT;

12 SNIPE; 3 partridges; 3 hares; 3 rail; 21 head.

Shot only for a short time in the morning, as the grounds were all flooded. Light, steady rain all day.

625 SNIPE in January; 7 days' shooting.

2149 SNIPE killed to date.

1869, February 15th; Monday; 23d day;

CYPRE-MORT;

99 SNIPE; 6 partridges; 3 hares; 5 rail; 113 head.
Dumesnil, Baudin, and Penn-Sloughs.

2248 SNIPE killed to date.
Christopher Hampton shot; his score not included above.

I left for New Orleans the 22d of January and returned here the evening of the 13th of February.

1869, February 18th; Thursday; 25th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

114 SNIPE; 2 rail; 2 garde-soleil; 118 head.
Shot the sloughs from 8 to 12, getting 100 birds by that time, when the ladies of Oaklawn joined us at luncheon.

Did not shoot regularly after that; picking up the other 14 birds on the way home.

2433 SNIPE killed to date.
Hampton shot; his score not included above.

1869, February 20th; Saturday; 27th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

107 SNIPE; 1 hare; 5 rail; 113 head.
The sloughs pretty much all day, where there was still much water.

2609 SNIPE killed to date.
Hampton shot; his score not included above.

1869, February 23d; Tuesday; 28th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

92 SNIPE; 5 partridges; 2 rail; 2 garde-soleil; 101 head.

Birds few and scattered, showing the effect of the past week's hard shooting.

Found a good many birds close to the house in the sedge grass where the pigs had been rooting.

I have observed that snipe are very apt to frequent places where pigs have been rooting.

2701 SNIPE killed to date.

Williams, who arrived on the 21st, shot to-day; his score not included above.

1869, February 24th; Wednesday; 29th day;

CYPRE-MORTE;

127 SNIPE.

Dumesnil, Baudin, Pellerin, and burnt ground near Penn-Sloughs.

Smashed the wagon and lost much time in repairing it.

2828 SNIPE killed to date.

Williams shot; his score not included above.

1869, February 27th; Saturday; 30th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

50 SNIPE; 3 partridges; 2 rail; 1 garde-soleil; 56 head.

Shot the sloughs until 12 o'clock, when the Misses Porter, of Oaklawn, joined us at luncheon.

Killed 40 by 12 o'clock, the other 10 afterwards on the way home.

729 SNIPE killed in February; 8 days' shooting.

2878 SNIPE killed to date.

Williams shot; his score not included above.

1869, March 1st; Monday; 31st day;

CAMPERDOWN;

162 SNIPE; 3 partridges; 3 rail; 3 garde-soleil; 171 head.

Prairie and sloughs. South wind with passing clouds. I killed to-day 69 snipe in 75 minutes.

3040 SNIPE killed to date.

Williams shot; his score not included above.

1869, March 2d; Tuesday; 32d day;

CYPRE-MORT;

83 SNIPE; 2 hares; 3 rail; 88 head.

Dumesnil, Baudin, and the Penn-Sloughs; from which latter ground I drove to Gravemberg's, arriving there at 6.30 P.M. Slept there.

3123 SNIPE killed to date.

1869, March 3d; Wednesday; 33d day;

JENNERETT;

110 SNIPE; 1 partridge; 111 head.

Staying at Gravemberg's. Shot Jennerett from 10.20 till 4. Strong south wind and cloudy. Birds numerous but wild.

3233 SNIPE killed to date.

1869, March 4th; Thursday; 34th day;

JENNERETT;

120 SNIPE. From 10.25 till 4.30.

Fresh north wind, with steady light rain all day. After 12 o'clock birds very wild.

3353 SNIPE killed to date.

1869, March 9th; Tuesday; 35th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

21 SNIPE; 3 partridges; 24 head.

Prairie and slough from 9 till 1.30.

Heavy, steady rain; at times so heavy that it was impossible to see more than 10 yards. Birds so wild as to be unapproachable.

3385 SNIPE killed to date.*

1869, March 10th; Wednesday; 36th day;

JENNERETT;

143 SNIPE.

In going, drove across Camperdown prairie, crossing the Teche by Malin's Ferry; a very long drive, which gave me but a short time to shoot; returned by the Bayou Road.

3528 SNIPE killed to date

*11 of these snipe killed on the 5th as I drove across the prairie from Gravemberg's.

1869, March 13th; Saturday; 38th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

68 SNIPE; 1 rail; 69 head.

Prairie and sloughs. A short day, as the birds were scarce.

To-day finished the season of 1868–69.

767 SNIPE in March; 9 days' shooting.

Williams, who arrived on the 21st of February, and has been staying with me until to-day, shot; his score not included above.

I found out a good many new grounds this season.

SECOND SEASON, 1868–69; 38 DAYS' SHOOTING.*

SNIPE.	Partridges.	Woodcock.	Hares.	Wild Duck.	Teal.	Rail.	Garde-Soleil.	Grouse.	Plover.	HEAD.	
3645	68		20		6	184	38			3961	38 days, 1868–69.
1861	27		3			25				1916	Killed previously.
5506	95		23		6	209	38			5877	To date, 62 days.

* 11 Snipe (included in the total of 3645) were killed on an unnumbered day while driving across the prairie from Gravemberg's.

CHAPTER VII

EXTRACTS FROM THE "DAILY JOURNAL" OF THE GAME-BOOKS OF THE SNIPERY

THIRD SEASON, 1869–70

1869, October 28th; Thursday; 1st day;

CYPRE-MORT.

20 SNIPE.

Began on Dumesnil at 11 o'clock, and by 1 o'clock got 19 there; then tried Baudin and the Penn-Sloughs, but only saw two birds, one of which I killed. Birds are evidently not here yet.

Very little water anywhere. Cover thick; grass and weeds very rank. Ther. 38°.

1869, November 2d; Tuesday; 2d day;

CAMPERDOWN;

109 SNIPE; 1 rail; 110 head.

Shot the lowest part of the prairie from 12 to 4.15. Not many birds there, but what there were, lying in the deep prairie from Willow Pond to Flag-Slough. Cover thick.

New Purdey gun. Sandy and Joe, the former black and tan Gordon setter, the latter Red Irish.

129 SNIPE killed to date.

1869, November 12th; Friday; 4th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

133 SNIPE; 3 rail; 136 head.

Birds rather wild and scattered and not numerous.

Much water in the deep prairie. South wind with passing clouds, until noon, when it clouded up and the light became so bad that the birds flying low, it was difficult to see them.

I killed to-day two large hawks; one with a wild duck he had just killed and had begun to eat.

Lang gun. Sandy and Joe.

325 SNIPE killed to date.

1869, November 13th; Saturday; 5th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

102 SNIPE; 1 rail; 103 head.

First Cypre-Mort, Dumesnil, Baudin, Pillerin, and Penn-Sloughs.

The birds were so scattered I had to go over much ground to make the bag.

A great deal of water from heavy rain before day-break this morning.

427 SNIPE killed to date.

1869, November 26th; Friday; 8th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

187 SNIPE; 3 rail; 1 garde-soleil; 191 head.

Second Cypre-Mort and Longinais; first time I have shot the latter ground.

Foggy till 11; birds abundant but wild and getting up in wisps.

737 SNIPE killed to date.

I went to Torwood on the 17th and returned last evening. Lord Garlies arrived to-day.

1869, November 27th; Saturday; 9th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

73 SNIPE; 1 hare; 1 rail; 75 head.

First and Second Cypre-Mort, Longinais, Dumesnil, and Penn-Sloughs. Birds few and scattered.

810 SNIPE killed to date.

Lord Garlies shot; his score not included above.

1869, November 29th; Monday; 10th day;
CAMPERDOWN;

242 SNIPE; 1 wild duck; 8 rail; 251 head.

Shot the deep prairie all day. The birds well distributed, and shooting regular and steady.

South wind with passing clouds. Clouded up towards the end of the day, and the light became very bad.

1032 SNIPE killed in November; 9 days' shooting.

1052 SNIPE killed to date.

1869, December 1st; Wednesday; 11th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

112 SNIPE; 1 partridge; 3 teal; 1 garde-soleil; 117 head.

First Cypre-Mort, Dumesnil, Second Cypre-Mort, Longinais, Pellerin, Baudin, Bitot, Penn-Pond, Penn-Meadows.

Drove and walked from one ground to another, finding a few birds everywhere. I have never known at this season, when the ground was so fit, so few birds.

Purdey gun. Sandy and Joe.

Bitot, Penn-Meadows, and Penn-Pond are new grounds shot for the first time to-day.

1164 SNIPE killed to date.

1869, December 2d; Thursday; 12th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

188 SNIPE; 1 rail; 1 garde-soleil; 190 head.

Birds abundant and lying well where the cover was good; wild where there was much water.

Cold north wind and cloudy. A light rain about 1 o'clock.

Purdey gun. Joe, the whole, Dash, part of the day.

1352 SNIPE killed to date.

I left for New Orleans and Torwood this evening.

1869, December 20th; Monday; 13th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

80 SNIPE; 1 rail; 3 garde-soleil; 84 head.

Southerly wind, dark, cloudy day; birds few and wild.

1432 SNIPE killed to date.

I arrived last evening from New Orleans and Torwood.

1869, December 23d; Thursday; 15th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

82 SNIPE; 2 rail; 84 head.

Prairie and sloughs. North wind and cloudy, raw, cold day.

Birds not numerous and very wild; lying a good deal on some burnt ground back of the Camperdown fence. Much water everywhere.

The Great-Sloughs so full that I did not attempt them.

1563 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 31°.

1869, December 27th; Monday; 16th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

107 SNIPE; 1 hare; 108 head.

Birds wild first part, lying well latter part of the day. Cold and cloudy until 1.30, when it cleared off.

618 SNIPE in December; 6 days' shooting.

1670 SNIPE killed to date.

Very heavy rain on Friday, the 24th of December.

LAKE ARTHUR EXPEDITION

TO SHOOT GROUSE—"Pinnated Grouse," commonly called "Prairie Chicken."

Having heard that there were a good many grouse in the parishes of Vermillion and Calcasieu, I left the Snipery on the 29th of December, 1869, at 10.45 A.M., with shooting wagon, 3 horses and 3 dogs (2 setters and a pointer), and with 3 servants, Scipio, Henry, and Gerard, for New Iberia, where I arrived the same day at 5 P.M. There I spent the night and procured another horse and a cart to carry traps, dogs, etc.; there, too, I was joined by my young friend, Julius Robertson.

From New Iberia we drove 22 miles across the prairie to Abbeville, where we crossed the Bayou Vermillion; stopped for the night, 30th of December, at the house of a 'Cagian, Edmond Guidry, on the Vermillion prairie, 12 miles from Abbeville.

31st of December. Left Guidry's very early in the morning and drove across the prairie, seeing by the way many ducks, geese, and sandhill cranes, and a few, though very few, snipe, and occasionally a covey of partridges.

Crossed Lake Arthur and entered the parish of Calcasieu, across the prairie of which we drove to Desiré Hebert, reaching his house at 5 P.M., where we slept.

1870, January 1st. Beat Hebert's pasture of four or five thousand acres from 10 A.M. till 3.30 P.M.—Hebert driving the wagon in the centre, Scipio and

Gerard on horseback, Robertson and myself, with Henry, walking, and the three dogs ranging wide, but put up no grouse at all.

Killed a wild duck and a few snipe; 6 or 7 deer got up wild, out of the prairie grass, but as there was no cover, they could not be stalked and were unapproachable.

Fresh north wind, blowing half a gale, and steady rain; very cold; freezing nearly all day. Altogether a very inclement, rough day.

January 2d, a beautiful, clear, bright day.

Drove across the prairie to Hiram Andrews', putting up a pack of about 30 grouse, 12 of which I killed.

They were fine birds, strong on the wing, and taking, when flushed, long flights, so that they could not be marked down.

January 3d. Went over a great deal of ground to-day, putting up one small pack of 20 grouse, 4 of which I killed. They were, as yesterday, very wild and took such long flights that it was impossible to mark them down.

January 4th. We left Andrews' at 7 A.M., drove across the prairie to John Meaux's, where we slept, killing a few snipe by the way.

January 5th. Drove across the prairie to Wm. Robertson's place, on Lake "Simonette," sometimes called Lake Peigneur, on the opposite side of which is Orange Island, or Miller's Island, later Jefferson's Island, where I stayed in 1850, when I

shot this part of the country. After arriving at Robertson's at 1 P.M., I killed in the afternoon 14 snipe and 5 woodcock.

January 6th. I left Robertson's for New Iberia at 7.45 A.M., stopping on the way at Dr. Folsom's, where I shot a wood called "Parc-Perdu," from 9 till 2, getting 55 woodcock to my own gun. Thick cover, but beautiful ground for cock.

I have never before seen so many woodcock in one day.

I think had I begun earlier, and shot longer, and shot better, I would have killed 100; but I had had a pretty rough time for the past week and was jaded and out of condition, and so were my men and dogs, and I was hurried, being anxious to get back to the Snipery, where I had an engagement, and so did not do so well with the birds as I should have done.

Reached New Iberia at 5 P.M.

January 7th. Left New Iberia at 10.10 A.M., reaching the Snipery at 2.45 P.M.

Dined at Oaklawn with Mrs. and the Misses Porter.

MEMORANDA OF LAKE ARTHUR EXPEDITION

The Calcasieu and Vermillion prairies are not, as a rule, good snipe grounds, being generally too sandy.

From my experience, snipe prefer marshes, consisting of black, greasy loam, with but little sand in

it—what the Cagians call "Terre Gras" or "fat land," such as is generally found in the parish of St. Mary, notably on the Camperdown and Cypre-Mort grounds.

What snipe, partridges, etc., I killed on the Lake Arthur expedition, I shot by the way as we drove across the prairie; did not shoot regularly except grouse and woodcock.

I do not think there are grouse enough in that country to make it worth going so far, especially to one accustomed to shooting snipe; they are too easy to hit, if one can get within reasonable distance of them.

I saw in parts of the prairie, beyond Lake Arthur (particularly numerous in Desiré Hebert's pasture), great numbers of polecats. I often saw as many as six or seven, perhaps more, congregated together in colonies, on small mounds in which they have their burrows.

These mounds, themselves, are a very curious feature of the prairie; oval in form, 10 to 12 feet in diameter, a very gradual elevation from base to top, 2 or 3 feet above the level of the prairie. Their origin I could not ascertain; they are not artificial, I think.

The expedition, on the whole, was very pleasant and interesting; the features of the country were novel and curious; the inhabitants primitive and original.

On my return to the Snipery, I went at the snipe again.

1870, January 8th; Saturday; 17th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

71 SNIPE.

Birds wild, north wind, cold and cloudy; light rain at intervals.

1785 SNIPE killed to date.

Returned yesterday from the Lake Arthur expedition.

1870, February 5th; Saturday; 19th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

125 SNIPE; 2 partridges; 127 head.

Killed all the birds on First Cypre-Mort. Tried Dumesnil but found no birds there. Much water.

1998 SNIPE killed to date.

I arrived from New Orleans, Torwood, etc., at 6 A.M. this morning, having left the Snipery on the 13th of January.

1870, February 8th; Tuesday; 21st day;

CYPRE-MORT;

151 SNIPE; 5 partridges; 156 head.

First Cypre-Mort and Penn-Sloughs.

Fresh north winds and clear, bright, bracing day.

Birds generally lying well; though, where there was much water, they were wild.

2226 SNIPE killed to date.

Purdey gun. Sandy and Joe.

Otho Williams arrived this evening.

1870, February 9th; Wednesday; 22d day;
CAMPERDOWN;

151 SNIPE; 2 partridges; 153 head.
Prairie and sloughs.
Birds abundant. West wind, clear, bright day.
Purdey gun. Sandy and Joe.
2377 SNIPE killed to date.
Williams shot; his score not included above.

1870, February 10th; Thursday; 23d day;
CAMPERDOWN;

149 SNIPE; 1 rail; 150 head.
Prairie and sloughs. Clear, bright day and hot sun.
I saw many birds get up at a distance without any apparent reasons in wisps of 20 to 60, and after flying around a good deal, settle down on the edge of the prairie, where I put them up, having good sport with them.
I set fire to the ridges between the Great-Sloughs to-day, to which, I think, in a few days the birds will come.
2526 SNIPE killed to date.

1870, February 12th; Saturday; 24th day;
CAMPERDOWN;

137 SNIPE; 2 rail; 139 head.
Prairie and sloughs, 72; Two-Oak-Tree-Ground, 65.
2663 SNIPE killed to date.

1870, February 14th; Monday; 25th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

79 SNIPE; 1 hare; 1 rail; 1 garde-soleil; 82 head.

Second Cypre-Mort, Longinais, Penn-Sloughs. Warm, cloudy day.

Not many birds generally, but I occasionally came across large wisps in Dumesnil and Longinais, which got up wild and flew off.

I saw in the course of the day several large wisps, numbering, as far as I could estimate them, 70 to 100 in each, flying about as if they were migrating or changing their feeding grounds. I could not mark them down, as they did not settle within my sight.

2742 SNIPE killed to date.

1870, February 16th; Wednesday; 26th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

103 SNIPE; 1 rail; 104 head.

Prairie and burnt ground. I did not find any birds until the latter part of the day, when I came upon a good many in a plowed field of Camperdown. They got up wild and in wisps, as they also did in the burnt ground outside the field.

2845 SNIPE killed to date.

Had out for the first time new pointer, Ned, which proved quite worthless.

Williams and General Myers shot to-day; their score not included above.

1870, February 21st; Monday; 29th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

99 SNIPE.
Prairie and sloughs. Birds rather wild. East wind and cloudy.
3065 SNIPE killed to date.
Purdey gun. Sandy and Joe.

1870, February 28th; Monday; 31st day;

CAMPERDOWN;

81 SNIPE; 1 rail; 82 head.
Shot the prairies and sloughs.
1355 SNIPE killed in February; 13 days' shooting.
3228 SNIPE killed to date.
Myers shot; his score not included above.

1870, March 1st; Tuesday; 32d day;

CYPRE-MORT;

170 SNIPE.
Dumesnil all day. Birds abundant and lying well. Light south wind, and bright, clear day.
3398 SNIPE killed to date.
General Myers shot; his score not included above.

1870, March 2d; Wednesday; 33d day;
CYPRE-MORT;

152 SNIPE.

Dumesnil all day. Birds lying a good deal in the water.

3550 SNIPE killed to date.

1870, March 3d; Thursday; 34th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

117 SNIPE.

Dumesnil and Baudin. Birds not very abundant, and rather wild.

South wind blowing very fresh all day; in the afternoon much thunder and lightning.

3667 SNIPE killed to date.

Williams shot; his score not included above.

1870, March 11th; Friday; 39th day;
CAMPERDOWN;

93 SNIPE.

Prairie and sloughs from 10 till 3.

Birds numerous in the deep prairie and shallow sloughs and adjacent meadows; none on the burnt ground where I recently found them.

Northeast wind; cloudy and dark; steady, and at times heavy rain; very cold.

810 SNIPE in March; 8 days' shooting.

4041 SNIPE killed to date.

Williams and General Myers, who have been for some time with me shooting, left on the evening of the 9th.

1870, April 4th; Monday; 40th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

50 SNIPE; 2 rail; 1 night heron; 53 head.

I left here on the 12th of March for Torwood and Duncannon, and returned night before last, the 2d of April; and this morning, the weather being cold and bracing for the season, I thought I would try if there were any birds still here.

Snipe are such migrants, and breed so far off, it is excusable to shoot them as long as they stay here; though, as a rule, I do not approve of shooting so late in the season, and do not care to do so.

I saw but few birds to-day, and those were collected together in the deepest part of the prairie and in the Great-Sloughs. I think I killed every bird I saw.

The winter of 1869–70 was unusually mild; not so wet as that of 1868–69.

On the 11th of January I tried the Harding wood for cock, having heard, an evening or two previously, several in an adjacent old field, but though the grounds and cover were very fit, in an hour's beating with three dogs I only put up 3 birds, 2 of which I killed; these 2 made my score of cock for the season 62, instead of 60 as below.

I shot all this season with a Purdey gun.

THIRD SEASON, 1869–70 ; 40 DAYS' SHOOTING *

SNIPE.	Partridge.	Woodcock.	Hares.	Wild Duck.	Teal.	Rail.	Garde-Soleil.	Grouse.	Plover.	HEAD.	
4,091	29	60	6	8	8	35	11	16		4,264	40 days. 1869-70.
5,506	95		23		6	209	38			5,877	Killed previously.
9,597	124	60	29	8	14	244	49	16		10,141	To date. 102 days.

*44 of the snipe included in the season's score of 4091, were killed in the Lake Arthur expedition, and not on any of the 40 days of the season's shooting.

CHAPTER VIII

EXTRACTS FROM THE "DAILY JOURNAL" OF THE GAME-BOOKS OF THE SNIPERY

FOURTH SEASON, 1870–71

1870, November 12th; Saturday; 1st day;

CYPRE-MORT;

123 SNIPE; 2 partridges; 125 head.

I arrived at the Snipery from Europe (having stopped for a short time at New York, Newport, Charleston, and Duncannon) on 2d of November, 1870.

I found the weather warm for the season and the marshes very dry. On the 3d of November I rode over the Camperdown grounds and found them as dry as a lime-burner's wig; no water (only a little moisture) in any of the ponds, except in the Willow Pond, in which there was a little.

The weather continued dry up to to-day, 12th of November, and is now, but this morning, hearing from Victorin, the black butcher of Cypre-Mort,

that there were some snipe near his house, I drove there and began to shoot at 10.30, and finished at 1.55 with 123 snipe.

Very warm and murky and cloudy, though at intervals the sun shone out very bright and hot.

Cover thick, but the birds did not lie as well as usual in such cover, owing, I suppose, to its being cloudy.

Upper grounds very dry and hard, but the deepest grounds, which are almost always at this season submerged, were in beautiful order, though the walking on them was very hard.

Not expecting to find many birds, I did not take my usual supply of cartridges, and had by 1.55 expended them all, while the birds were still abundant and lying better than they had at any other part of the day.

A hard but very enjoyable day. Purdey gun. Joe.

Dined at Oaklawn with Mrs. and the Misses Porter, meeting Bishop Wilmer of Louisiana.

1870, November 14th; Monday; 2d day;

CYPRE-MORT;

230 SNIPE; 1 rail; 1 garde-soleil; 232 head.

First Cypre-Mort, Dumesnil, and Penn-Sloughs; I tried Baudin, but found no birds there; birds very wild, getting up in wisps and taking long flights.

I found very few in the lower grounds of Dumesnil, where there were so many on Saturday.

This morning there was a south wind with steady, moderate rain from 5 till 8 o'clock, which accounts for the birds having changed their ground since Saturday.

At 8 the wind came out howling from the north, blowing hard all day; cloudy, and latter part of the day light very bad. Shot the greater part of the day on the higher grounds of First Cypre-Mort and Dumesnil.

353 SNIPE killed to date.

1870, November 16th; Wednesday; 3d day;

CYPRE-MORT;

194 SNIPE; 1 hare; 2 rail; 197 head.

First Cypre-Mort and Dumesnil; much the same ground as on Monday.

Clear, cold day; birds lying well. Lost 1 hour and 15 minutes in driving to, and walking over Baudin, Pellerin, and Second Cypre-Mort, where I did not put up a single bird. I wanted, however, to inspect the grounds and ascertain their condition.

On Second Cypre-Mort the cover is very good, and, I think, after the winter rains have softened that ground, the shooting will be good there.

At present all the birds in the country seem to be collected on First Cypre-Mort and Dumesnil.

I shot to-day the Lang gun; and the cartridges being too heavily loaded, and the trigger not properly rounded, the recoil caused it to cut my trigger-finger so badly that I had to stop shoot-

ing the right barrel and shoot the left only the greater part of the day; of course thus losing many birds.

NOTE.—Hereafter, in all my shooting, I shot almost entirely with Purdey guns. The rest of this season I shot over Sandy, black-and-tan Gordon setter, and Joe, Irish setter, until 20th of February, when I also shot over black-and-white English setter, Range, one of the best dogs I ever owned.

547 SNIPE killed to date.

10,144 SNIPE killed to date from the 2d of December, 1867; 105 days' shooting.

1870, November 18th; Friday; 4th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

133 SNIPE; 1 partridge; 134 head.

First Cypre-Mort and Dumesnil; birds lying well, but not numerous, showing the effects of the last three days' hard shooting: the 12th, 14th, and 16th, in which days, including this, I killed 680 snipe, all on First Cypre-Mort and Dumesnil, with the exception of a very few on Baudin and the Penn-Sloughs.

Sharp frost yesterday morning, with a little ice.

680 SNIPE killed to date.

1870, November 22d; Tuesday; 5th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

170 SNIPE; 1 teal; 5 rail; 176 head.

First Cypre-Mort and Dumesnil, 131; Penn-Sloughs, 39.

Birds not very numerous, but lying uncommonly well, so that I killed a very large proportion of those I saw.

Clear, bright day and cold.

850 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. sunrise, 31°.
Ther. sunset, 40°.

1870, November 30th; Wednesday; 6th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

134 SNIPE; 1 hare; 3 wild duck; 138 head.

First Cypre-Mort and Dumesnil, 52.

I then lost much time going to and from First Cypre-Mort to Sorrell's, where I found no birds; Penn pond, 54; and finishing in the Penn-Sloughs, where I got 28.

984 SNIPE killed in November; 6 days' shooting.

984 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 51°.

I left for Torwood and New Orleans on the 24th of November, and returned here on the evening of the 28th.

I have never known the grounds to be so dry during any previous November as they have been up to this date; all except the deepest parts of Dumesnil and those grounds I shot to-day, which in an ordinary season are too much submerged, are now as dry as a powder-horn and as hard as a brick.

I do not think there are more (if as many) snipe than are usually here at this season, but those that are here are concentrated in the small area of ground

which is fit, and so I have been able to give a good account of them and make large bags.

In driving home to-day, I saw great numbers of robins (the American robin or Migratory Thrush of Audubon) in the Harding wood.

They are migrants, and I think their being here so early in the season portends a cold winter.

1870, December 20th; Tuesday; 7th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

140 SNIPE; 1 partridge; 1 rail; 142 head.

Shot chiefly Dumesnil and Baudin.

Birds wild, especially in Baudin, where they were lying a good deal in the water.

Took a look at Pellerin, but lost half an hour in doing so without getting a bird. That ground now much grown up; will probably afford good shooting later in the season.

Also took a look at the Penn-Sloughs, but no birds there. North wind, cloudy and dark, cold all day.

1124 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 36°.

Henry Duncan shot; his score not included above.

1870, December 21st; Wednesday; 8th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

84 SNIPE; 1 wild duck; 85 head.

Dumesnil and Baudin. North wind and cloudy; very cold after 11 o'clock. It began to sleet at 6 P.M. and sleeted and rained nearly all night.

1208 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 29°.

Henry Duncan shot; his score not included above.

I left for Torwood and Reserve on the 5th of December and returned on the 18th.

1870, December 23d; Friday; 9th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

145 SNIPE; 1 hare; 146 head.

I did not begin until 11, shooting Dumesnil from then till 1.30, getting 36 there; then the upper grounds of Baudin from 1.45 till 4.35, getting 109 there.

I found by far the most birds on Baudin, where they were lying in the soft prairie grass, which was not frozen.

All night before last it sleeted and rained steadily and was very cold.

To-day, bright and clear, very little wind and very cold. Trees, weeds, and grass thickly coated with ice, not melting at all in many places during the day.

Much ice in the lower marshes, where there was water, about three quarters of an inch thick; but the upper grounds of Baudin and Dumesnil, covered with thick, short prairie grass, were not frozen, and the snipe resorted to them in numbers; hence such good sport.

A very enjoyable day, though very cold driving to and from the grounds. The portent of the early robins has been fulfilled.

1353 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. sunrise, 20°.
" sunset, 34°.

Henry Duncan here, but did not shoot.
The Porters dined with us last evening.

1870, December 30th; Friday; 11th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

103 SNIPE; 7 partridges; 1 hare; 111 head.
Birds lying a good deal in the corn-fields, where the walking was hard.

514 SNIPE killed in December; 5 days' shooting.

1498 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 33°.
Henry and Stephen Duncan left at 5 P.M. to-day.

1871, January 27th; Friday; 12th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

25 SNIPE.
Shot only for a couple of hours, finding few birds, and those so wild that I gave it up at the end of that time.
Dark and cloudy, with a steady rain and very cold. What birds I saw were lying on the burnt ground, which was very bare of cover.
I have never seen so much water on the ground; from a heavy rain on Wednesday night.
Saw great numbers of ducks.

1523 SNIPE killed to date.
I went to New Orleans, Torwood, and Reserve on the 2d, and returned here last evening.

1871, February 20th; Monday; 15th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

167 SNIPE.

Prairie and shallow sloughs. "Two-Oak-Tree" Ground, and some new ground which I discovered to-day, and named "Wood Ground."

Birds generally wild, though they laid well in the "Two-Oak-Tree" Ground, where the cover was good. South wind and cloudy.

Had out to-day, for the first time, English setter "Range," who performed very well, though snipe were quite new to him; I think he will make an excellent snipe dog.

The spring shooting promises well, as the grounds are generally very fit.

1789 SNIPE killed to date.

I left for New Orleans, Torwood, and Reserve on the 1st, and returned last evening bringing setter Range with me.

1871, February 21st; Tuesday; 16th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

128 SNIPE; 3 partridges; 3 wild duck; 2 green-wing teal; 136 head.

Shot much the same ground to-day as yesterday. Fresh, south wind and cloudy.

I killed to-day a rare (to me) species of hawk. Audubon describes it as "Black-Shouldered Hawk"

—"Elanus Desbar." I have never seen this hawk before; it is white, with black on the shoulder, or upper part of the wing. Killed a large raccoon to-day. Ther. 62°.

1917 SNIPE killed to date.

1871, February 22d; Wednesday; 17th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

171 SNIPE.

First Cypre-Mort and Dumesnil, 130; where the birds were abundant, but nowhere else.

They kept coming back to this ground as if they did not want to leave it. Made the rest of the bag in Baudin, Penn-Slough, etc.

South wind and cloudy till 3.

2088 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 58°.

1871, February 23d; Thursday; 18th day;

JENNERETT AND DUMESNIL;

93 SNIPE; 1 partridge; 1 hare; 1 rail; 96 head.

Drove to Jennerett's—a long drive—but found very few birds there, getting only 14 on that ground; so I drove back by the Bayou Road until I came to L'Éclair Fusillier's house, where I took the prairie road for Dumesnil, arriving there at 12.50; and finished the day there, killing 79 more.

Signs of an early spring.

2181 SNIPE killed to date.

1871, February 25th; Saturday; 19th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

62 SNIPE; 6 partridges; 2 wild duck; 1 teal; 71 head.
Birds generally lying on the hard ground; though the deep prairie and sloughs were very fit. It looks as if they were getting ready to migrate.
2243 SNIPE killed to date.

1871, February 27th; Monday; 20th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

139 SNIPE.
First Cypre-Mort, Dumesnil, Baudin, Pellerin, and Penn-Sloughs.
Found a lot of birds in a small flat near the house of a 'Cagian, who told me they were there, and I got 15 or 16 in a very short time, as they kept coming back to the place.
2382 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 38°.

1871, February 28th; Tuesday; 21st day;

CAMPERDOWN;

96 SNIPE.
Prairie and sloughs. Birds not numerous but lying well.
856 SNIPE in February; 7 days' shooting.
2478 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 38°.

1871, March 2d; Thursday; 22d day;
CYPRE-MORT;

103 SNIPE; 4 partridges; 1 rail; 108 head.

First Cypre-Mort, Dumesnil, Penn-Sloughs, Penn-Meadows, and Longinais.

Blowing half a gale of wind from the southeast, and very heavy rain as I drove to the ground, which lasted for some time after I began to shoot, making the birds very wild.

I went over a great deal of ground to-day.

2581 SNIPE killed to date.

1871, March 3d; Friday; 23d day;
CAMPERDOWN;

92 SNIPE; 1 partridge; 93 head.

Two Oak Tree Ground; burnt ground and adjacent prairie and sloughs.

Great numbers of birds on burnt ground, west of Flag Slough, but as wild as hawks and quite unapproachable, getting up wild in wisps, and clearing out.

Fresh, north wind, with rain at intervals; much water everywhere from heavy rain last night.

2673 SNIPE killed to date.

1871, March 6th; Monday; 25th day;
CAMPERDOWN;

101 SNIPE; 2 partridges; 2 wild duck; 105 head.

Shot all the Camperdown grounds. Made the greater part of the bag in the Wood Ground.

2861 SNIPE killed to date.

1871, March 10th; Friday; 27th day;

CYPRE-MORT AND CAMPERDOWN;

126 SNIPE; 2 partridges; 1 hare; 129 head.

First Cypre-Mort, Penn-Sloughs, and Dumesnil; leaving Cypre-Mort at 1.15 with 60 snipe, and driving via Malin's Ferry to Camperdown, where I finished the day, getting 66 more on that ground.

3053 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 44°.

1871, March 17th; Friday; 29th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

112 SNIPE; 2 wild duck; 25 golden plover; 139 head.

Saw great numbers of golden plover migrating from south to north.

3250 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 43°.

1871, March 18th; Saturday; 30th day;

CYPRE-MORT AND CAMPERDOWN;

162 SNIPE; 2 partridges; 2 hares; 1 garde-soleil; 167 head.

Shot First Cypre-Mort, Dumesnil, and Penn-Sloughs till 2 o'clock, getting 98 snipe there; then drove to Camperdown, where I finished the day, getting 64 more on that ground.

A good many birds for so late in the season, several wisps having probably stopped on the ground the night before, while passing on their migration.

To-day finished the season of 1870–71. Unusually dry until January, after which it was very wet, until the 20th of March, when I left the Snipery, not returning until the 14th of May.

934 SNIPE killed in March; 9 days' shooting.

Shot with Purdey guns all the season. Dogs; Sandy, Joe, and Range.

On the 15th of May, 1871, at the kind suggestion of my good friends and neighbors, Mrs. and the Misses Porter, of Oaklawn, I dismantled the Camperdown Snipery and moved my belongings to Oaklawn, the adjoining property, where I established the Oaklawn Snipery, in the rear of the Oaklawn house.

FOURTH SEASON, 1870–71; 30 DAYS' SHOOTING

SNIPE.	Partridges.	Woodcock.	Hares.	Wild Duck.	Teal.	Rail.	Garde-Soleil.	Grouse.	Plover.	HEAD.	
3,412	53		12	14	4	12	4		25	3,536	30 days. 1870-71.
9,597	124	60	29	8	14	244	49	16		10,141	Killed previously.
13,009	177	60	41	22	18	256	53	16	25	13,677	To date. 132 days.

OAKLAWN

CHAPTER IX

EXTRACTS FROM THE "DAILY JOURNAL" OF THE GAME-BOOKS OF THE SNIPERY

FIFTH SEASON, 1871–72

1871, September 26th; Tuesday;

I arrived at Oaklawn yesterday, and with the assistance of my good friends, the Porters, moved from the Oaklawn house all my traps, which had been sent there last spring from the Camperdown Snipery, to a cottage about 150 yards from the "great house," which my friends had put at my disposal.

Oaklawn, belonging to the Porters, is the adjoining property to Camperdown, both lying on each side of the Bayou Teche.

To-day (26th of September) I rode over the Camperdown grounds, and the summer of 1871 having been quite rainy, I found them very fit.

I put up 2 snipe on the prairie and 1 in the great sloughs; unusually early for them to be here.

Passing through Mobile and New Orleans on the 24th and 25th, I saw a few in the markets of those places; the fact of their being here so early makes me think we will have an early winter.

"OAKLAWN SNIPERY"

1871, October 30th; Monday; 1st day;
CAMPERDOWN;

75 SNIPE; 2 wild duck; 1 teal; 3 garde-soleil; 81 head.

Commenced the season of 1871–72 to-day. Shot the Cottonwood Tree ground until 11.30, when I tried the Great-Sloughs, but found them too full of water, so returned to the Cottonwood Tree ground and shot until 1.30, when the downpour of rain was so heavy that the grounds were quite submerged.

Dark and cloudy; it began to rain at daylight, and rained steadily and hard all day. Wind came out from the north about noon and blew hard and cold.

I got soaking wet, but had a very enjoyable day, for the birds were abundant for so early in the season.

Average weight of 10 snipe, $4\frac{3}{4}$ ozs.; unusually heavy.

I arrived from Europe on the 25th of September. This autumn was my first occupation of the Oaklawn Snipery.

I went to New Orleans, Torwood, and Reserve on the 4th of October and returned here on the 27th.

1871, November 6th; Monday; 4th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

108 SNIPE; 2 rail; 4 garde-soleil; 114 head.

Prairie and shallow sloughs, from 10 till 3.

Birds not numerous and scattered, but lying like stones, so that very few survived the day. I have seldom killed so large a proportion of those that got up. Clear day and hot sun.

326 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 54°.

1871, November 17th; Friday; 5th day;

CYPRE-MORT AND CAMPERDOWN;

123 SNIPE; 1 wild duck; 124 head.

First Cypre-Mort and Dumesnil till 12 o'clock, getting 71 snipe there.

I then drove to Camperdown, crossing the Teche by Malin's Ferry, to Camperdown, where I finished the day, getting 52 more snipe and 1 wild duck on that ground.

449 SNIPE killed to date.

Judge Miller shot; his score not included above.

I left for Torwood on the 7th of November and returned here on the evening of the 16th, bringing my friend Miller with me.

1871, November 18th; Saturday; 6th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

174 SNIPE; 2 wild duck; 1 garde-soleil; 177 head.

First Cypre-Mort and Dumesnil till 1 o'clock,

getting 35 by then; then Second Cypre-Mort, where I got 139 more by 4.45.

East wind; a light, steady, penetrating rain from 12 till dark, when the wind came out from the north, cold and blustering.

A very cold drive home in my wet clothes.

623 SNIPE killed to date.

Judge Miller shot; his score not included above.

1871, November 20th; Monday; 7th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

176 SNIPE; 2 rail; 178 head.

Dumesnil, Second Cypre-Mort, and Longinais.

Birds lying well as the cover was good. Much water everywhere.

799 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 42°.

1871, November 22d; Wednesday; 8th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

118 SNIPE; 1 rail; 2 garde-soleil; 121 head.

Prairie and shallow sloughs, 116. Wood Ground, 2; the only ones I saw there. Clear, bright day; light variable wind.

842 SNIPE killed in November. 7 days' shooting.

917 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 38°.

5 snipe weighed 20 ozs. 5 snipe weighed 19½ ozs; all in good condition.

Dr. Chas. Smith told me yesterday, that on the 25th of June last, when driving through the Harding wood to visit an ill child at Camperdown, he

saw a full-grown black bear, which was slowly crossing the road a few paces in front of him, about two miles from the Snipery.

1871, December 4th; Monday; 9th day;
CAMPERDOWN;

233 SNIPE; 1 rail; 234 head.

Prairie and all the sloughs and Wood Ground. Most of the birds in Cottonwood Tree Ground; very few in the Great-Sloughs, or in the Lacey Sloughs.

Killed a very large proportion of those I saw.

Clear, bright day; fresh northwest wind. Walking hard, as the birds were lying in the soft, deep ground.

1150 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 44° sunrise; 38° 7 P.M.

Purdey gun. Range and Joe.

I went to New Orleans and Torwood on the 23d of November and returned here on the 2d of December.

1871, December 5th; Tuesday; 10th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

119 SNIPE; 1 rail; 3 garde-soleil; 123 head.

Dumesnil, 105; Second Cypre-Mort, 14. Birds lying much in the water, and, consequently, wilder than usual in such weather, which was clear and bright.

I was in bad form to-day and shot very badly; probably owing to the hard work of yesterday, when the walking was hard and heavy.

1269 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 26°.

1871, December 7th; Thursday; 11th day;

CYPRE-MORT AND CAMPERDOWN;

114 SNIPE; 10 partridge; 5 garde-soleil; 129 head.

Dumesnil, 40 by 12.15; when I drove to Camperdown and got 74 more there, in the deep prairie and great sloughs.

East wind; birds wild; I think when the wind is in the east the birds are apt to be wild.

1383 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 50°.

10 snipe weighed 38 ozs. 10 partridges weighed 57 ozs.

1871, December 22d; Friday; 12th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

126 SNIPE; 1 wild duck; 2 garde-soleil; 129 head.

Prairie and the sloughs. Shot all the sloughs today for the first time this season.

Birds very irregularly distributed over the ground; many in some places; none or very few in others, at a little distance off, apparently precisely of the same character. I think that the food (worms or insects) that they feed on abound more in some localities than in others; hence they are sometimes more numerous, apparently without reason, in some places than in others which seem exactly similar.

1509 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 64°.

Went to Torwood on the 10th and returned last evening.

1871, December 23d; Saturday; 13th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

160 SNIPE; 6 partridges; 166 head.

Second Cypre-Mort, 15; Pellerin, 120; Dumesnil, 25.

Many birds on Pellerin, and lying well in the brown sedge grass. A good many also on Dumesnil, but there they got up wild in wisps.

1669 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 62°.

1871, December 26th; Tuesday; 14th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

109 SNIPE; 3 partridges; 1 teal; 113 head.

First Cpyre-Mort, Dumesnil, Patout, and Pellerin.

Birds abundant but wild, getting up more in large wisps than I have ever seen before.

Not generally distributed over the ground, but seemingly congregated for migration, probably farther south.

The Baudin property (plantation and pasture; the latter Penn pasture) has recently been purchased by Philip Patout, and hereafter Baudin will be Patout.

1778 SNIPE killed to date.

1871, December 28th; Thursday; 15th day;
CYPRE-MORT AND CAMPERDOWN;

56 SNIPE; 1 hare; 57 head.

I went over much ground to-day, but found very

few birds. They are not here; have probably gone farther south. The large wisps in which I have lately found them congregated, probably meant their migration.

917 SNIPE killed in December; 7 days' shooting.

1834 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 46°.

1872, January 9th; Tuesday; 16th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

140 SNIPE.

First and Second Cypre-Mort, Dumesnil, Pellerin, and Longinais.

Birds abundant and not getting up in wisps as they did in the latter part of December, but well distributed over the ground, affording steady, regular shooting.

A very satisfactory and enjoyable day.

140 SNIPE in January; 1 day's shooting.

1974 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 40°.

I went to New Orleans and Torwood on the 29th of December, and returned on the 5th of January.

1872, February 2d; Friday; 17th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

112 SNIPE; 1 hare; 113 head.

First and Second Cypre-Mort, Dumesnil, and Pellerin.

Birds abundant, but wild. Much water everywhere from the heavy rains of the past 6 or 7 days; roads awful. The Harding wood almost impassible,

not only from many and deep mud holes, but from many trees blown down and branches of trees broken down by ice and sleet.

A spell of unusually bad weather has prevailed for the last 8 or 9 days.

2086 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 44°.

I went to Torwood, Reserve, and Duncansby on the 9th of January and returned last evening.

1872, February 3d; Saturday; 18th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

113 SNIPE; 2 partridges; 1 woodcock; 116 head.

Prairie and sloughs from 11 till 5. Birds abundant, but unusually wild for such a bright, sunny day.

In going to the ground, I tried the Harding wood for cock, but put up only one, which I killed; a good bird, female, weighing $7\frac{3}{4}$ ozs.

2199 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 34°.

1872, February 5th; Monday; 19th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

131 SNIPE.

Prairie and all the sloughs. Two-Oak-Tree Ground and Wood Ground.

Two or three large wisps in the Wood Ground, but they got up all together, wild, and cleared out. Fresh southeast wind and cloudy.

2330 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 57°.

1872, February 7th; Wednesday; 20th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

116 SNIPE; 5 partridges; 121 head.

First Cypre-Mort, Dumesnil, Longinais, and Sorrell Prairie.

Birds abundant, but very wild indeed. Dark, cloudy day with cold, northeast wind; and after 12, light rain from time to time.

Much water everywhere; roads shocking. Cold all day, and a cold drive to and from the ground.

2446 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. sunrise, 40°; 6 P.M. 42°.

1872, February 9th; Friday; 21st day;
CAMPERDOWN;

129 SNIPE; 1 rail; 130 head.

Prairie and sloughs. Birds generally lying where the cover was thin, and consequently wild.

2575 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 36°.

1872, February 10th; Saturday; 22d day;
CYPRE-MORT;

110 SNIPE; 3 partridges; 1 wild duck; 114 head.

First and Second Cypre-Mort, Dumesnil, and Longinais. On the latter ground several large wisps got up and after flying around a good deal, cleared out, so that I could not locate them; just what occurred on the 14th of February, 1870, on this same ground.

2685 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 48°.

1872, February 12th; Monday; 23d day;
CAMPERDOWN;

120 SNIPE.

Prairie and all the sloughs. Fresh south wind; bright, sunny day. Birds numerous, but wild for such weather; owing, I think, to the ground having been lately shot so steadily, and also to the sparseness of cover, caused by the severe freezes and the heavy rains and by the stock running over it a good deal.

The grounds drying rapidly and the deep prairie getting very fit.

2805 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 41.°

1872, February 22d; Thursday; 24th day;
CAMPERDOWN;

180 SNIPE; 3 partridges; 183 head.

Clear, bright day; light west wind. Birds abundant in the deep prairie, and on the ground between the Flag Sloughs and briars, and on Cottonwood Tree Ground; all of which grounds I shot.

Had I been alone I think I would have killed 300 to my own gun, for I don't think I have ever seen so many birds in one day.

2985 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 41°.

Henry Duncan and Otho Williams shot; their score not included above.

I went to Torwood on the 14th, and returned last evening; driving up from Berwick's Bay and bringing Henry Duncan and Williams with me.

1872, February 23d; Friday; 25th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

162 SNIPE.

Prairie and all the sloughs.

Birds still abundant and lying well where the cover was good.

Fresh, south wind, and clear, bright day.

3147 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 40°.

Otho Williams shot; his score not included above.

1872, February 26th; Monday; 27th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

93 SNIPE.

A hard day, for the birds were not numerous, and lying chiefly in the deepest parts of the prairie, where the ground was very rotten and boggy and the walking hard.

3295 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 56°.

1872, February 28th; Wednesday; 28th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

95 SNIPE; 7 partridges; 102 head.

Went over much ground. Most of the birds on First Cypre-Mort and Far-Pellerin.

1416 SNIPE killed in February; 12 days' shooting.

3390 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 64°.

1872, March 2d; Saturday; 29th day;
CAMPERDOWN;

99 SNIPE.

Prairie and sloughs. Much water everywhere from heavy rain yesterday. Cover thin and birds wild.

There was some sleet yesterday with heavy wind from the north.

3489 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 36°.

1872, March 4th; Monday; 30th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

73 SNIPE; 3 partridges; 76 head.

First Cypre-Mort, Dumesnil, and Pellerin.

Birds not numerous but lying well. Moderate south wind and clear, bright day.

I this day killed 11 snipe in succession; the 12th, a long shot, I crippled badly, and it fell at a distance; I could have got it, but did not care to lose the time by going after it. I then killed the next 5 birds without a miss; thus making 16 killed out of 17 shots; 2 rights and lefts among them, shooting at everything (as is my habit) getting up within 40 yards.

I think I have done better than this often, but my attention was called to these shots by my friend Williams, who counted them. I never count my shots myself, as I like to take very sporting ones and don't mind missing.

3562 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 46°.

Williams shot; his score not included above.

1872, March 9th; Saturday; 33d day;
CYPRE-MORT;

18 SNIPE; 1 partridge; 19 head.

Only shot a short time, for at 12 there came on such a storm of wind from the north, and such a downpour of rain that I could not see 15 yards ahead of me.

We were very far from home when the storm came on, and getting soaked, had a very cold drive back.

Before the storm, we went over much ground, finding very few birds.

3733 SNIPE killed to date.

Ther. 62° sunrise; 49° sunset.

1872, March 11th; Monday; 34th day;
CAMPERDOWN;

151 SNIPE.

Prairie and all the sloughs.

Birds abundant and lying well where the cover was at all good. A good many on the burnt ridges between the Great-Sloughs, but that ground being very bare of cover, they got up wild.

I saw to-day 3 grass plover or "papa-bôte," but they were so wild as to be unapproachable.

3884 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 46°.

Williams here, but did not shoot, though he joined me and walked with me while I was shooting.

1872, March 12th; Tuesday; 35th day;
CAMPERDOWN;

62 SNIPE; 3 grass plover, or papa-bôte; 65 head.

I saw at first a good many birds, but they were lying on the burnt ground and got up wild and went off, and did not return. I killed to-day the 3 grass plovers I saw yesterday.

On their getting up before me, I killed one with each barrel, and one of them being winged, acted as decoy to the third, and I killed it.

When the papa-bôte are coming, the snipe are going.

As a rule, I do not shoot them at this season, as they are out of condition, migrating from some far southern resort to their northern breeding-places.

I generally shoot one or two when they first come to "mark the season"; that is, to mark that it is drawing to an end.

Audubon calls this bird "Bartramian Sand-Piper," which is, I think, a misnomer, for it is strictly an upland plover, as he expresses it, "The most terrestrial of its tribe, inclined at all seasons to keep away from the water." Male, 6 ozs; female 7 ozs.

3946 SNIPE killed to date.

Otho Williams, who has been here shooting with me since the 21st of February, left this morning; his score not included in mine.

1872, March 18th; Monday; 37th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

109 SNIPE; 2 partridges; 2 plover; 113 head.

I finished the season of 1871–72, shooting all the Camperdown grounds.

Birds quite abundant for so late in the season; lying chiefly in the deep prairie and the burnt ground of Lacy, where I found them on the 14th, and about this time in previous years. (See page 201 on my game-book.)

752 SNIPE killed in March; 9 days' shooting.

4142 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 45°.

REVIEW OF THE SEASON OF 1871–72

The summer of 1871 was wet (as a rule a season succeeding a wet summer is generally good, and vice versa) and the grounds were fit and the birds came to them unusually early, probably attracted by the food they afforded, and perhaps driven south by early cold weather in the north.

The winter of 1871–72 was a cold one; we had, for these parts, an unusually cold spell in the latter part of January.

The grounds continued generally fit throughout the whole season; those of Camperdown especially so.

It is rather curious that at the end of this season, 1871–72,—the 5th season,—shooting Camperdown and Cypre-Mort (8 or 9 miles apart) for five seasons indiscriminately, as from the amount of rainfall I estimated what would be the fitness of these grounds respectively at various times, I have killed at the end of these five seasons, on Camperdown 8091 snipe in 85 days, and on Cypre-Mort 8094 snipe in 72½ days' shooting.

The other snipe killed to date were shot on other grounds, Jennerett, etc.

FIFTH SEASON, 1871–72; 37 DAYS' SHOOTING.

SNIPE.	Partridges.	Woodcock.	Hares.	Wild Duck.	Teal.	Rail.	Garde-Soleil.	Grouse.	Plover.	HEAD.	
4,142	45	1	2	7	2	14	23		5	4,241	37 days. 1871–72.
13,009	177	60	41	22	18	256	53	16	25	13,677	Killed previously.
17,151	222	61	43	29	20	270	76	16	30	17,918	To date. 169 days.

CHAPTER X

EXTRACTS FROM THE "DAILY JOURNAL" OF THE GAME-BOOKS OF THE SNIPERY

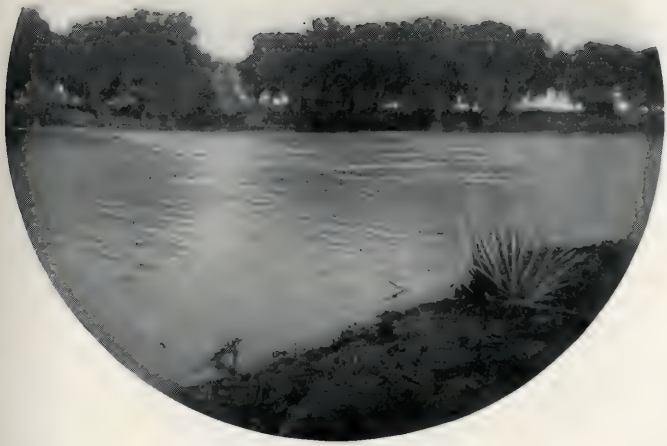
SIXTH SEASON, 1872–73

ON the 25th of September, 1872, I arrived from Europe, having stopped a few days en route in New York and Newport.

I find a drought has prevailed here for two months, and I have never seen the grounds so dry; dryer than in 1870.

I left here for New Orleans, Torwood, Reserve, etc., on the 4th of October, and did not return till the 9th of November.

No rain to wet the ground till 6th, 7th, and 8th of November, when a good deal fell, but the grounds were so hardened by the long drought that, though there is a good deal of water on them, they are not at all softened. I think the prospects of a good season are very bad, for the grounds are now so hard it will take much rain and a long time to soften and put them in condition.



BAYOU TECHE, AT OAKLAWN

On the 10th and 11th of November I saw a few robins flying over the Snipery; their early appearance portends a cold winter, I think.

I only shot one day in November, killing 43 snipe; 2 days in December, killing 86.

Though the grounds were wet enough in December, they were still much too hard.

On the 2d of January I tried "Parc Perdu" for woodcock; the ground I shot on the 6th of January, 1870. I found fewer birds than I expected in such cold weather, and in such good ground.

I killed 2 snipe and 5 partridges on the way to the cock grounds, and got 27 cock. I do not think I put up half a dozen birds I did not kill.

Third of January (same ground), 23 woodcock; 50 cock in the two days' shooting. Having used up all the birds by 12 o'clock on the 3d of January I returned home.

The shooting continued so bad, owing to the hardness of the ground, that I only shot occasionally in a desultory sort of way, until the 4th of January, when I went to New Orleans and Torwood, returning to the Snipery on the 2d of February, when, finding the birds had come in, I began shooting regularly.

1873, February 3d; Monday; 7th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

113 SNIPE; 2 duck (pintail); 115 head.

Prairie and all the grounds. Birds not generally distributed, but lying chiefly in the deep prairie. The Great- and Shallow-Sloughs.

Two-Oak-Tree and Wood Grounds so grown up I don't think they will afford any shooting this season; they did not hold a single bird to-day.

Grounds nowhere so fit as usual; very hard, and cover thin, owing to droughts of last summer.

Ther. 52°.

Killed previously, 253 snipe; 12 partridges; 50 woodcock; 8 wild duck; 2 teal; 1 rail; 439 head.

366 SNIPE killed to date.

1873, February 5th; Wednesday; 8th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

140 SNIPE.

Very dark, cloudy day, with steady light rain until 10 o'clock.

No birds on First Cypre-Mort, except in front of Victorin's house, where they were so wild and the light so bad, I could do nothing with them.

I had 3 hours' beautiful sport in "The heart of Dumesnil," in which time I killed 75, for though the light was very bad, and the rain and cloudy weather made them wild, they kept coming back to that ground.

506 SNIPE killed to date.

1873, February 22d; Saturday; 13th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

90 SNIPE.

A few in front of Victorin's, where the cover was thin, and they got up wild and cleared out.

A few in Dumesnil, then Patout (formerly Baudin), Pellerin, and Second Cypre-Mort.

About 50 on those grounds; then I finished on Longinais, where I found more birds than on all the other grounds, and more than I have seen on one day this season. They at first got up wild and flew off to a great distance, but after awhile they came back.

The birds have evidently just arrived in these parts.

I left for New Orleans on the 18th and returned the 21st.

825 SNIPE killed to date.

General Myers arrived last evening. Lord Dunraven and Dr. Kingsley left on the 16th.

1873, February 25th; Wednesday; 15th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

165 SNIPE.

Victorin, Dumesnil, Patout, Pellerin, and Second Cypre-Mort. Birds lying well, chiefly in the green of Pellerin.

Williams shot; his score not included above. He killed an alligator we found lying in the marsh, about 4 feet long.

1061 SNIPE to date.

1873, February 28th; Friday; 16th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

166 SNIPE.

Shot nearly all the Cypre-Mort grounds, except the First Cypre-Mort, Penn-Sloughs, pond, and meadows.

Birds were abundant everywhere, a good many lying in the brown weeds of Patout, far out in the water, which was quite deep.

They were there so wild that we could do nothing with them, as they got up quite out of shot.

Did most of the shooting in the green of Second Cypre-Mort.

Killed an alligator in Patout marsh about 4½ feet long. Ther. 48°.

974 SNIPE killed in February; 10 days' shooting.

1227 SNIPE killed to date.

Williams shot; his score not included above.

1873, March 1st; Saturday; 17th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

128 SNIPE; 1 partridge; 129 head.

Very much the same ground as yesterday, which showed the effect of yesterday's hard shooting, for the birds were in much diminished number.

Dark and cloudy, with occasional showers of rain. Killed most of the birds, say about 85, between 10 and 12 o'clock.

1355 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 58°.

Williams shot; his score not included above.

1873, March 3d; Monday; 18th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

109 SNIPE.

Began on Second Cypre-Mort, as I have done for several days past, and after getting 50 there, shot Pellerin, Patout, and Dumesnil, and finished the day on First Cypre-Mort.

1464 SNIPE to date. Ther. 34°.

Williams shot; his score not included above.

1873, March 5th; Wednesday; 19th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

152 SNIPE; 2 blue-wing teal; 1 garde-soleil; 155 head.

35 in Dumesnil by 12 o'clock, then drove to Second Cypre-Mort, where I got 117 more. The birds quite abundant in the latter ground, and lying well.

1616 SNIPE to date. Ther. 40°.

Williams shot; his score not included above.

1873, March 8th; Saturday; 20th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

46 SNIPE.

Not much of a shoot to-day; but I quote the day here, as indicating the habits of snipe under certain conditions of weather.

Shot Victorin and Dumesnil first; on the latter ground they were lying in large wisps, far out in the deep water, and very wild.

At 9.40, soon after I began to shoot, there came on a very heavy squall of wind and rain, with much thunder and lightning. After the rain had slackened up, a little, I went on shooting (though it was still raining), in the "Old Mill" ground.

At first I found a good many birds there, but the heavy rain still continuing, they gradually disappeared from the "green," where I had been shooting for the past week, and at the end of an hour, there was not a bird to be found on the lower grounds, which were by this time quite flooded.

I then tried the "broom sedge" of Pellerin, finding there numbers of them in large wisps; doubtless the same birds which had been previously lying in the "green" of Second Cypre-Mort before the rain; but they were so wild as to be unapproachable, getting up all together and clearing out.

I then went to the upper grounds of Cypre-Mort, finding a few birds there.

On the upper grounds of Longinais, I found two large wisps, and a small one on Bitot; some also on ridges between the Penn-Sloughs, and on First Cypre-Mort near the briars; but all getting up in wisps so wild that I could do nothing with them.

So at 3.30, soaked to the skin, I gave it up and went home.

My experience is, that a light rain, if not heavy enough to flood their feeding grounds, and drive them off, causes snipe to congregate together, and capital sport may be had in a light rain, though the

birds are generally wild under these circumstances. But when the rain begins with a downpour as it did to-day, and continues until the grounds are flooded, the birds fly off and betake themselves to higher grounds, where, I suppose, there being no food for them, they are very restless and wild, and go off all together on the slightest alarm; and those grounds being only a temporary resting place, and new to them, they do not return to them after having been disturbed.

Such were the circumstances to-day, and under such, I would advise one to give it up, and go home and change his clothes, especially if he was as wet as I was to-day.

1662 SNIPE killed to date.

1873, March 22d; Saturday; 22d day;

CYPRE-MORT AND CAMPERDOWN;

108 SNIPE; 14 partridges; 1 plover; 123 head.

I left Cypre-Mort with 24 snipe and 12 partridges (I lost one hour in going to the Emile Pete Grounds, where I was told there were a good many birds, but found none, thus losing an hour of the best part of the day). Going to Camperdown by Malin's Ferry, I shot from 2.10 to 5.30, the Lacey and the Great-Sloughs and the upper back corner of the Oxford field, getting 84 snipe and 2 partridges on those grounds.

I found the usual spring wisps on the Lacey burnt

field where I have always found them at this season for several years past.

1858 SNIPE killed to date.

On March 11th, the 21st day, I made a very satisfactory double; 3 snipe getting up together at about 35 yards, I killed the farthest with my first barrel and the other two with my second; all falling dead, with their white bellies up, within 12 inches of each other, on the bare ground where there was no cover.

I left for New Orleans and Torwood on the 14th, and returned last evening with Stephen Duncan.

1873, March 25th; Tuesday; 23d day;

CAMPERDOWN;

136 SNIPE; 4 golden plover; 140 head.

Began on the Oxford field, then prairie and sloughs, and burnt ridges between the Great-Sloughs, getting most of the birds on the latter ground.

I found them lying a good deal among the small brambles on the burnt ridges. The usual spring wisps on the Lacey burnt field.

Dark, cloudy day, with several showers of rain till 11, when the wind blew fresh from the northwest, and the sun burst out suddenly and shone bright the rest of the day.

I gave a good account of the birds to-day, killing a very large proportion of those I saw; a very enjoyable day.

I this day finished the season of 1872-73;

the worst I have had since the first season of 1867-68.

767 SNIPE in March; 7 days' shooting.

1994 SNIPE killed to date.

On the 26th of March I left for Torwood, and returned on the evening of the 12th of April; and the 14th of April being a very cold day for the season, I went out an hour before breakfast to see if there were any birds still here. I only saw 15; 12 of which I killed.

I do not count this 14th day of April as a snipe day, as I was only out for an hour before breakfast.

Heretofore in the preceding pages, I have counted as snipe days, every day that I have been out for snipe, regardless of how short a time I shot, sometimes shooting only for an hour or two. Hereafter I shall number as snipe days only those days on which I have shot for at least two hours, though I will keep in my game-book a record for snipe killed on those "broken" or "non-snipe" shooting days, which were not numbered as snipe days.

I shot all the season with Purdey's guns.

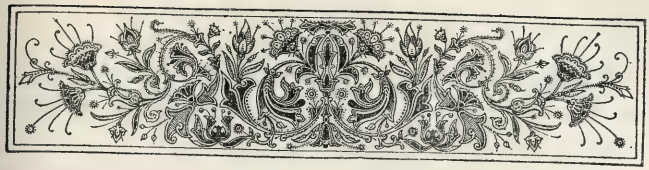
Owing to the great drought of the summer of 1872, the grounds were so hard and unfit, and afforded so little food, that I think the snipe in their autumnal migration would not stop, but passed them by; and the winter being unusually cold, they probably went farther south.

SIXTH SEASON, 1872–73; 23 DAYS' SHOOTING.

SNIPE.	Partridges.	Woodcock.	Hares.	Wild Duck.	Teal.	Rail.	Garde-Soleil.	Grouse.	Plover.	HEAD.	
* 2,006	66	50		8	6	2	2		5	2,145	23 days. 1872-73.
17,151	222	61	43	29	20	270	75	16	30	17,918	Killed previously.
19,157	288	111	43	37	26	272	77	16	35	20,063	To date. 192 days.

* 12 killed on April 14th, on an unnumbered day.

BAYOU TECHE, ON THE UPPER FRONT OF OAKLAWN



CHAPTER XI

EXTRACTS FROM THE "DAILY JOURNAL" OF THE GAME-BOOKS OF THE SNIPERY.

SEVENTH SEASON, 1873–74.

1873, November 21st; Friday; 2d day;

CYPRE-MORT;

123 SNIPE; 3 partridges; 1 rail; 4 garde-soleil; 131 head.

Most of the birds on Dumesnil. Took a good look at all the Cypre-Mort grounds, which are generally very fit.

188 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 52°.

I arrived from Torwood last evening, having returned early this year from Europe.

In riding over and inspecting the grounds on the 1st of October, I saw 6 snipe behind the Camperdown quarters.

I had the setter Range with me that day, and he had one of the epileptic fits to which he was subject; on recovering from it, he got up and ran home, as I thought.

I could not overtake him, and I have never seen or heard of him since, though I offered a large reward for him, dead or alive.

He was on the other side of the Teche from the Snipery when he was taken with the fit, and in swimming the bayou he may have been seized by an alligator, of which there are still several in the bayou near the Snipery.

It is the only way that I can account for his total and mysterious disappearance, for he was so well known in the country he could not have been stolen; he was one of the best dogs I ever owned, and a great loss.

I think the prospects for a good season are very fair, for the grounds are fit and likely to continue so.

1873, November 29th; Saturday; 4th day;
CYPRE-MORT AND CAMPERDOWN;

81 SNIPE; 1 partridge; 3 rail; 1 garde-soleil; 86 head.

I went over much ground, finding very few birds, though the grounds are in beautiful order, very fit as regards moisture, softness, and cover; the birds ought to be here, but they are not.

I fear it has been a bad nesting season; an element which is generally lost sight of in snipe-shooting, as their breeding places are so remote and inaccessible as not to come under the observation of sportsmen; but in such inclement climates, as probably to be greatly affected by the variations of the weather.

324 SNIPE killed in November; 4 days' shooting.
324 SNIPE killed to date.

1873, December 20th; Saturday; 5th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

127 SNIPE; 1 hare; 128 head.
Dumesnil, 50; eagle ground, 48; Patout and Pellerin and Second Cypre-Mort, 29.
451 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 41°.
I went to Torwood and Reserve on the 2d of December and returned here last evening.

1873, December 24th; Wednesday; 7th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

78 SNIPE; 1 garde-soleil; 79 head.
Dumesnil, 35; Prevost, 8; Longinais, 25; Penn pond, 10.
I to-day killed 3 snipe at a shot, which I have never done before.
555 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. sunrise, 46°.
Ther. 6 P.M., 47°.

1874, February 6th; Friday; 12th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

67 SNIPE.
First and Second Cypre-Mort, Dumesnil, and Penn Meadows.
858 SNIPE killed to date.
20,015 SNIPE killed to date from the 2d of December, 1867.
I left for Torwood on the 20th of January and returned here on the 5th of February.

1874, February 7th; Saturday; 13th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

109 SNIPE; 6 partridges; 1 rail; 116 head.
Dumesnil, Longinais, Sorrell prairie, and Prevost.
967 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 45°.
Henry and Stephen Duncan arrived on the 14th, and left on the 18th.

1874, February 9th; Monday; 14th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

109 SNIPE; 3 rail; 112 head.
Killed most of the birds on the burnt ground.
Shot to-day for the first time a Grant gun I brought with me from London last autumn.
1076 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 35°.

1874, February 11th; Wednesday; 15th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

110 SNIPE; 1 garde-soleil; 111 head.
I first shot Victorin's, where I found a wisp, but they got up wild and flew off, as usual on that ground.
Then Dumesnil, Longinais (a good many on Longinais), Prevost, and Pellerin; winding up on Dumesnil, which I shot a second time.
1186 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 48°.

1874, February 13th; Friday; 16th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

90 SNIPE; 1 partridge; 3 rail; 94 head.

35 on the "Burn" of the Cottonwood-Tree Ground; 44 on Two-Oak-Tree Ground; 5, Canal grounds; 4 in Great-Sloughs; 2 behind Camperdown quarters.

Cloudy with light rain all day. Hard showers at intervals. Got very wet.

I made 3 very satisfactory shots to-day. Having marked down 4 snipe in some rather thin cover, 3 got up wild at the same time. I killed, crossing each other, 2 with my first barrel, and 1 with the second; the fourth rose at the report of the second barrel, and I had just time to slip a cartridge hurriedly in one barrel, and killed it at a long shot.

1276 SNIPE killed to date.

1874, February 14th; Saturday; 17th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

136 SNIPE; 2 partridges; 138 head.

After shooting Dumesnil and Longinais, I reached Sorrell at 2 o'clock with 52 birds. There I found lots of them, and finished the day on that ground, getting 84 by the time I knocked off. I have never before found so many birds on this ground, and they (which is the perfection of snipe-shooting) kept coming back to it, so that I could go over and over the ground and still find birds on it

1412 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 56°.

1874, February 18th; Wednesday; 19th day;
CAMPERDOWN;

105 SNIPE; 3 rail; 108 head.

Shot a new ground which I discovered to-day beyond the Two-Oak-Tree Ground, which I call the "Henry" Ground. Got 51 snipe there. Many robins here now; as a rule, when robins are abundant, so are snipe.

1603 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 49°.

1874, February 20th; Friday; 20th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

142 SNIPE.

I went over a great deal of ground, shooting all the Cypre-Mort marshes to-day.

On Patout, formerly "Baudin," which generally affords good shooting, I only got 1 bird to-day. Snipe are very capricious and uncertain in their habits.

1745 SNIPE killed to date.

1874, February 23d; Monday; 22d day;
CYPRE-MORT;

120 SNIPE.

31 in Dumesnil, 14, "Wayside Willows," 27, Prevost. I then lost a couple of hours in trying Second Cypre-Mort, where on the 16th, 20th, and 21st, I found a good many birds, but only got 10 there to-day; 3, Longinais, 28, Sorrell Marsh and Prairie, and wound up a very enjoyable day by shooting the

Wayside Willows a second time, getting 7 more there.

A good day for walking, and I shot uncommonly well—I always shoot better in cold than warm weather.

1955 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. sunrise 50°.
Ther. sunset 47°.

1874, February 28th; Saturday; 23d day;
CYPRE-MORT;

107 SNIPE; 1 teal; 108 head.

I smashed the wagon yesterday on the way to Cypre-Mort in the Harding wood, which prevented my shooting, it being a very bad smash-up.

1271 SNIPE killed in February; 12 days' shooting.

2062 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 58°.

1874, March 2d; Monday; 24th day;
CAMPERDOWN;

98 SNIPE; 3 partridges; 2 rail; 103 head.

The first shot I made to-day was a lucky and satisfactory one. As I was driving across the prairie, Dash pointed, and 2 snipe getting up before him, I killed both with one barrel as they crossed each other.

2160 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 51°.

1874, March 4th; Wednesday; 25th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

115 SNIPE; 2 partridges; 1 hare; 118 head.

Dumesnil, 33; Wayside Willows, 6; Second Cypre-Mort, 32; Longinais, 4; Sorrell, 40.

2275 SNIPE killed to date.

1874, March 9th; Monday; 27th day;

CYPRE-MORT AND CAMPERDOWN;

113 SNIPE; 2 garde-soleil; 115 head.

10, Penn pond and meadows; 21 Sorrell; 32 Dumesnil.

Birds wild and the walking very heavy indeed, as the birds were lying in the deepest and softest ground; the boggiest in which I have ever shot here. I was thoroughly pumped out and dead beaten.

Leaving Cypre-Mort ground with 63, I drove to Camperdown, where I got 50 more; 13 in the Great-Sloughs, and 37 in the deep prairie, where the walking was also very hard. Altogether a hard day.

2469 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 45°.

1874, March 10th; Thursday; 28th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

136 SNIPE; 3 rail; 139 head.

126 in the deep prairie, 9 in the Great-Sloughs, 1 in "Willow-Slough." Birds congregated in the deep prairie, few anywhere else. Walking as hard as yesterday. As far as walking is concerned, the two last days have been the hardest I have ever had on these grounds.

2605 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 55°.

I have heard several times lately the "booming" of the Bittern.

1874, March 17th; Thursday; 29th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

127 SNIPE; 18 partridges; 1 garde-soleil; 2 golden plover; 148 head.

92, Penn-Meadows; 35, Sorrell. Lower grounds flooded.

I did not look into Dumesnil; first time this season I have not done so, when I have shot the Cypre-Mort grounds.

I went to New Orleans on the 12th and returned last evening. Roads shocking.

2732 SNIPE killed to date.

1874, March 19th; Saturday; 30th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

130 SNIPE; 4 partridges; 1 hare; 1 rail; 1 plover; 137 head.

40, Penn-Meadows; 45, Sorrell, and adjacent prairie; 15, Longinais; 15, Prevost; 9, Dumesnil; 6, Penn-Sloughs; where I finished.

Birds not as numerous as on Tuesday, but lying better. I thinned them out so to-day, killing a very large proportion of those I saw, that I don't think it will be worth shooting these grounds again this season.

2862 SNIPE killed to date.

1874, March 21st; Monday; 31st day;
CAMPERDOWN;

121 SNIPE; 2 rail; 2 plover; 125 head.

Found a good many birds for so late in the season. Killed a very large proportion of those I saw, for though they did not lie well, they kept coming back to particular places.

They were generally lying on the burnt ground.

I shot the Cottonwood-Tree Ground and the Lacy Burnt-Field twice, getting a good many birds on those grounds each time.

2983 SNIPE killed to date.

1874, March 23d; Wednesday; 32d day;

CYPRE-MORT AND CAMPERDOWN;

117 SNIPE.

Shot the Cypre-Mort grounds first, then leaving there with 95 snipe; at 2.30, I drove to Camperdown and finished the day, getting 22 more on those grounds. Light rain and warm until 9.30, when the wind came out from N. E., blowing half a gale, and very cold, and a steady but not heavy rain the rest of the day.

Finished the season of 1873–74.

1038 SNIPE killed in March. 9 days' shooting.

Stephen Duncan arrived this evening.

The season of 1873–74 was a very mild one, and yet though the grounds were very fit all the season, there were not as many birds as usual on them. Probably the nesting season, in the far north where they breed, was an unfavorable one.

The autumn and winter shooting was uncommonly

bad. Why, I don't know, for a mild season is generally a good one for autumn and winter.

I shot with Purdey's guns all this season, which are entirely satisfactory.

SEVENTH SEASON, 1873–74; 32 DAYS' SHOOTING.

SNIPE.	Partridges.	Woodcock.	Hares.	Wild Duck.	Teal.	Rail.	Garde-Soleil.	Grouse.	Plover.	HEAD.	
3,100	58		4	4	3*	37	14		5	3,225	32 days. 1873–74.
19,157	288	111	43	37	26	272	77	16	35	20,064	Killed previously.
22,257	346	111	47	41	29	309	91	16	40	23,289	To date. 224 days.

* 2 bluewing killed on the Teche; also a blue heron of a very rare species here.

CHAPTER XII

EXTRACTS FROM THE "DAILY JOURNAL" OF THE GAME-BOOKS OF THE SNIPERY

EIGHTH SEASON, 1874–75

1874, November 14th; Saturday; 2d day;

CYPRE-MORT;

134 SNIPE; 4 partridges; 1 wild duck; 139 head.

I began in the lowest part of Dumesnil, getting 60 from 10 to 12 o'clock; some of them on the "Alligator Hole" Ground, which latter ground, though dry, and as hard as a brick, strange to say held a good many birds.

Then I tried back on the same ground, getting 31 more, thus making 91 there; then 11 on Second Dumesnil, and 32 on Baudin; getting by 3.50, 134, when I stopped.

Grounds very hard and dry, as there had been a very dry autumn.

I went farther in the lower grounds than I have

BAYOU FUSILIER, ON THE ROAD TO CYPRE-MORT

ever been before. I found 3 otter holes, with fresh signs.

Birds lying very well indeed. Killed more than usual over points.

Though I killed a good many birds on the boggy, low grounds, I killed quite as many on hard ground, where there was not the slightest moisture, which is rather singular.

166 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 57°.

I killed on the 31st of October, first day's shooting, 2 large hawks, one a large pigeon-hawk, Falco Columba, which is very destructive to game, and a very large fowl-hawk, destructive to poultry.

1874, November 17th; Tuesday; 3d day;
CYPRE-MORT;

114 SNIPE; 1 woodcock; 3 wild duck; 2 teal; 120 head.

Beginning in First Dumesnil and First Cypre-Mort, getting on those grounds, 61; then went to several grounds, finding very few.

I went to a new ground very far off, behind Sillan and Fayé, on land of Daries Loyon. There I only got 19, as there was too much water on it. I have never seen or heard of it before, but it is quite extensive and promising-looking and will, I think, when fit, afford good shooting.

Light rain till 12 o'clock. Went over a great deal of ground to-day.

The woodcock I killed on the Second Dumesnil on the edge of the green in the open; it got up

among a wisp of snipe, when I was shooting very fast. I killed a snipe with my first and the woodcock with my second barrel. I think it was driven out of some low woodland near, by a very heavy rain yesterday and this morning.

280 SNIPE killed to date.

1874, November 19th; Thursday; 4th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

207 SNIPE; 1 wild duck; 2 rail; 210 head.

Beginning First Cypre-Mort, where I got 22; 60 in Second Dumesnil; 82 by 11.45. Then lost an hour in trying "far Pellerin," where I did not find a single bird, though I got 64 in going through "near Pellerin."

I finished the day on Second Cypre-Mort, getting 61 on that ground.

Dark, cloudy day; east wind, light very bad towards the end of the day. Much water everywhere; birds lying chiefly on the higher ground, generally wild, but coming back.

Purdey gun. Dash.

487 SNIPE killed to date.

1874, November 21st; Saturday; 5th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

214 SNIPE; 5 partridges; 1 hare; 1 rail; 221 head.

First Cypre-Mort, 6; Second Dumesnil, 64; Patout, 24; Pellerin, 8; Second Cypre-Mort, 76; Longinais, 36.

Calm till noon, when a fresh S. E. wind sprang up; light rain latter part of the day, and the light very bad; and the birds flying low, it was hard to see them.

701 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 56°.

1874, November 23d; Monday; 6th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

228 SNIPE.

18, Victorin; 27, Dumesnil; 16, Patout; 8, Pellerin; 88, Second Cypre-Mort; 157 by 2.20, when I drove to new ground in front of Daries Loyon (see Tuesday, November 17th; 3d day), getting 33 and finishing the day there. Birds generally lying well, except in the new Loyon ground, where there is still too much water.

Clear, bright day; light N. W. wind.

929 SNIPE killed to date.

1874, November 25th; Wednesday; 7th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

301 SNIPE; 1 rail; 2 garde-soleil; 304 head.

The "Loyon" ground all day. Fresh, northwest wind; clear, cold, bright day; birds generally lying well, except in the deep water; cover good.

This Loyon ground I discovered a few days ago. (See 3d day, Tuesday, November 17th, 1874). It seems to be one of the best grounds within shooting distance of the Snipery. I am sorry I did not know of it before, but it is fenced around and rather inaccessible. I named it to-day, "The 300 Ground."

I had out only one dog, Dash, who having been worked very hard lately, got very tired, and in thick cover was very slow in finding dead; had I had a fresh dog, I think I would have got 20 birds more.

1230 SNIPE killed to date; 7 days.

Ther. 50°, sunrise, but it became much colder during the day.

1874, November 27th; Friday; 8th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

208 SNIPE; 1 rail; 1 garde-soleil; 210 head.

Picked up 18 birds in the Penn-Sloughs as I drove by, and began at 10 o'clock on the Loyon or "300 Ground."

At first I found but few birds, and thought of leaving, but persevering I found more, and passed the day there, getting 190 on that ground.

1438 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 55°

1874, November 30th; Monday; 9th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

256 SNIPE.

Shot these grounds to-day for the first time this season.

Birds numerous, and not scattered, but lying chiefly on prairie, towards the Flag-Slough and Cottonwood-Tree Ground, flying from one of those grounds to the other, so that they afforded shooting all day.

I did not touch the Sloughs or deep part of prairie.

Birds lying well. Clear bright day. Light east wind. A very enjoyable day.

1662 SNIPE in November; 8 days' shooting.

1694 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 34°

In the last 6 consecutive shooting days, I have killed 1414 snipe; the best consecutive shooting days I have ever had.

1874, December 1st; Tuesday; 10th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

116 SNIPE; 3 wild duck; 3 rail; 122 head.

Prairie and all the Sloughs; the same grounds I shot yesterday, where I killed 256.

1810 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 66°

1874, December 16th; Wednesday; 11th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

102 SNIPE; 5 partridges; 107 head.

Sorrell, 2; "300 Ground," 43; Longinais, 15; Second Cypre-Mort, 39; Prairie, 1; Prevost, 2. Shot Purdey gun with Concentrators.

1912 SNIPE killed to date.

I left for New Orleans and Torwood on 3d of December, and returned last evening.

1874, December 19th; Saturday; 12th day;
CAMPERDOWN;

61 SNIPE; 1 hare; 62 head.
Birds few and scattered. It became quite cold about 2 o'clock.
1973 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 54°.
Shot to-day a very large "Cotton Mouth" snake, which, though I did not pass very near it, opened its mouth and threatened me savagely.

1874, December 22d; Tuesday; 13th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

126 SNIPE; 5 partridges; 1 teal; 132 head.
"Dumesnil," "Patout," "Pellerin," "Second Cypre-Mort," "Longinais," "Sorrell." A good many birds on all these grounds, but so wild that I had to work hard to make the bag. Latter part of the day cloudy and dark, and light very bad.
2099 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 54°.

1874, December 24th; Thursday; 14th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

82 SNIPE; 5 partridges; 87 head. Ther. 48°.
487 SNIPE in December; 5 days' shooting.
2181 SNIPE killed to date.

1875, January 4th; Monday; 15th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

130 SNIPE.
8, "First Cypre-Mort"; 7, "Willow ground"; 110, "Second Cypre-Mort"; 5, "Longinais."

Fresh north wind, cloudy and dark; roads awful; had out new setter "Bruce" for first time.

Ther. 45°, sunrise; 42°, 7 P.M.

Warm weather so far.

2311 SNIPE killed to date.

Left for Torwood, 25th December; returned on 2d January with Henry and Stephen Duncan.

1875, January 7th; Thursday; 16th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

85 SNIPE; 1 wild duck; 1 rail; 87 head.

Shot from 10 till 3.45.

2396 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 46°.

1875, January 9th; Saturday; 17th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

125 SNIPE; 1 hare; 126 head.

Shot Sorrell first, getting 33 there; then "300 Ground," 92. Birds very wild, and lying a good deal in the water.

Much water everywhere.

Fresh, north wind, and cloudy. Being very wet all day, I felt the cold very much.

2521 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 40°, sunrise; 35°, 6 P.M.

1875, January 29th; Friday; 18th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

91 SNIPE; 8 partridges; 1 hare; 1 green-winged teal; 101 head.

Most of the birds killed on Second Cypre-Mort.

Lost much time in driving from one ground to the other, as the birds were very scarce everywhere.

Heavy rain last night.

2612 SNIPE killed to date.

I left for Torwood and Reserve on the 12th, and returned here last evening.

1875, January 30th; Saturday; 19th day;
CAMPERDOWN;

160 SNIPE.

Prairie and Shallow-Sloughs and Cottonwood-Tree Ground.

Light east wind and cloudy. Sun shining dimly at intervals; birds numerous, but very wild. Shot all day on the upper grounds.

Began shooting at 9.30 and finished at 4.

Ground generally soft and in good order, though cover somewhat thin.

591 SNIPE in January; 5 days' shooting.

2772 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 41°.

1875, February 1st; Monday; 20th day;
CAMPERDOWN;

233 SNIPE; 1 garde-soleil; 234 head.

I shot to-day pretty much the same ground as Saturday.

Birds numerous and generally wild. East wind; passing clouds.

3005 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 36°.

1875, February 2d; Tuesday; 21st day;

CYPRE-MORT;

82 SNIPE; 1 hare; 83 head.

Sorrell, 5; few birds on that ground, and they got up wild and cleared out. "300 Ground," 77. I shot this ground all day, except for a short time, when I tried Sorrell. There was much water on it, and the birds, though numerous, were very wild, getting up at a distance and flying around a great deal. It was impossible to do anything with them except down wind.

Strangely, to-day I found a good many lying in a bit of woodland,—some wet ground sparsely timbered with small cypress trees; have never found snipe lying on such ground before. I knocked off at 3 o'clock.

3087 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 55°.

1875, February 4th; Thursday; 22d day;

CAMPERDOWN;

210 SNIPE; 1 green-winged teal; 211 head.

Dark, cloudy day, and fresh north wind, with a little easting in it.

Birds numerous and wild. Deep-Prairie and Shallow-Sloughs.

Ground very fit, except cover somewhat sparse. A very enjoyable day, though walking hard, and it was very cold.

3297 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 38°, sunrise.
Ther. 42°, sunset.

1875, February 6th; Saturday; 23d day;

CAMPERDOWN;

105 SNIPE; 1 hare; 1 wild duck; 1 teal; 108 head.

Deep-Prairie, Great- and Shallow-Sloughs. Easterly wind and cloudy.

Birds unusually wild, owing partly to the east wind and cloudy weather, and also perhaps to my having shot the ground so hard lately, for I have since the 30th of January, to to-day, inclusive (4 days) taken out of it 708 snipe.

I used up the birds pretty well to-day; did not leave enough to make the ground worth shooting again till fresh birds come in. I will rest it awhile.

3402 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 36°.

1875, February 8th; Monday; 24th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

183 SNIPE; 2 rail; 185 head.

First Cypre-Mort, 3; Dumesnil, 103; Patout, 20; Pellerin, 57; finishing the day on the latter ground.

Birds numerous, lying in the deep ground, and much in the water; consequently wild.

3585 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 32°.

1875, February 11th; Thursday; 25th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

133 SNIPE; 2 partridges; 135 head.

First Cypre-Mort and Penn-Sloughs, 27; Dumesnil, 6; "Penn-Meadows," "Bito," "Emil Pete," "Sorrell," and "Longinais," 69.

I then worked over the same ground and got 31 more.

Light north wind; clear, bright day; birds lying well.

Much water everywhere, from a steady rain from 8 A.M. Tuesday, till 8 A.M. Wednesday, without intermission.

I shot altogether on the upper grounds; no birds at all on the lower ones, where I shot on the 8th, as they were entirely submerged.

3718 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 52°.

1875, February 13th; Saturday; 26th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

142 SNIPE.

I went over a great deal of ground to-day, for I first drove to the De la Houssaye marshes, and then to Jennerett,—29 or 30 miles; finding so much water everywhere that I only killed one bird on the latter ground, and 20 in the De la Houssaye and Kilgour sedge fields as I drove along.

In going across the prairie I came across some good ground, this side of Kilgour, the "White Store" prairie, where I got 70. I killed 15 on "Longinais;" "Prairie," "Sorrell," "Emil Pete," "Penn-Meadows," 37.

Dark and cloudy, southeast wind; birds wild.

3860 SNIPE killed to date.

1875, February 15th; Monday; 27th day;
CAMPERDOWN;

121 SNIPE.

Very dark, cloudy day; light bad; cold north-east wind.

Prairie and all the Sloughs; birds so wild I could do nothing with them except down wind. Very cold all day.

3189 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. sunrise, 56°.
Ther. sunset, 45°.

1875, February 18th; Thursday; 28th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

85 SNIPE; 1 partridge; 1 hare; 87 head.

I went over much ground to-day, seeing many birds, but extremely wild, getting up as a rule quite out of gunshot and clearing out.

Much water everywhere from continuous rain since Monday night; dark, cloudy day, with light, variable winds.

4066 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 46°.

Williams, who arrived on the evening of the 16th, shot to-day; his score not included above.

1875, February 20th; Saturday; 29th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

154 SNIPE; 1 rail; 155 head.

The higher grounds all day; Penn-Meadows, Bito, Emil Pete, Sorrell, High Prairie, Edward Sigur.

I don't think I ever have seen the grounds so flooded. There was so much water in the coolie between the Penn-Sloughs and Penn-Meadows, that it was nearly swimming for the horses, and I had great difficulty in reaching the latter grounds.

4220 SNIPE killed to date.

Williams shot; his score not included above.

1875, February 22d; Monday; 30th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

115 SNIPE; 4 partridges; 1 rail; 120 head.

First Cypre-Mort, Penn-Meadows, burnt ground of Emil Pete, Sorrell Prairie, etc., reaching Ed. Sigur's at 1 o'clock, where I finished the day and completed the bag.

Birds numerous, as on the two previous days on these grounds, but nowhere else, except a good many on some ploughed land near Sigur's. East wind and cloudy. Birds wild.

4345 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 46°.

1875, February 24th; Wednesday; 31st day;

CYPRE-MORT;

126 SNIPE.

I drove by Dumesnil and had a look at that ground, but found too much water there; too much also in Patout, so I drove on to Third Cypre-Mort, and Ed. Sigur, and shot those grounds and Sorrell.

4461 SNIPE killed to date.

Williams shot; his score not included above.

1875, February 26th; Friday; 32d day;

CYPRE-MORT;

196 SNIPE.

19 on Sorrell, the rest of the bag on the "300 Grounds," where I shot the remainder of the day; still a great deal of water.

Killed most of the birds on some ploughed turf land, where the walking was very hard, but the birds kept coming back to it.

Birds abundant but wild, as the turf ploughed ground was bare of cover.

4667 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 44°.

Williams shot; his score not included above.

1875, February 27th; Saturday; 33d day;

CAMPERDOWN;

185 SNIPE.

Prairie, Sloughs, and Harding burnt ground.

Birds most abundant on prairie and burnt ground.

2070 SNIPE killed in February; 14 days' shooting.

4842 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 55°.

Williams shot; his score not included above.

1875, March 1st; Monday; 34th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

164 SNIPE

I began on Sorrell, where I got 23; "300 Ground," 28; Second and Third Cypre-Mort, 83; Dumesnil, 30, in forty minutes, which was all the time I had

for that ground, as I had used up much time in going to so many different grounds so far apart.

I think had I begun on Dumesnil and shot that ground, and Pellerin, and Second and Third Cypre-Mort, and let Sorrell and the "300 Grounds" alone, I would have done better. I will try it so when I shoot again, if it does not rain, though I fear it will, for it was very dark and cloudy to-day, with showers at intervals.

5006 SNIPE killed to date.

Williams accompanied me, but did not shoot.

1875, March 3d; Wednesday; 35th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

251 SNIPE.

Dumesnil (where I began), 78, by 11.05; Patout, 10; Pellerin, 37; Second Cypre-Mort, 126, from 1.10 to 5.10, when I knocked off.

5257 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 40°.

Williams left last evening.

1875, March 5th; Friday; 36th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

172 SNIPE; 1 hare; 173 head.

Dumesnil, 45; Second and Third Cypre-Mort, 127. Birds abundant but very wild.

Dark and foggy until 11, when the fog lifted, and it clouded up, and the light became very bad; and with a dark day and no wind (for it was very calm all day), the birds were so wild that at one time I thought of giving it up.

5429 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 54°.

1875, March 8th; Monday; 37th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

305 SNIPE.

Bright, clear day; light, variable wind.

Birds numerous, lying chiefly in Deep-Prairie and Shallow-Sloughs; very few in the Great-Sloughs; 12 on the Harding burnt ground.

The wagon got badly bogged by the carelessness of my man July, and in extricating it I lost half an hour of the best part of the day.

Birds rather wild for such weather.

5734 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 35°.

1875, March 9th; Tuesday; 38th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

123 SNIPE.

I began shooting late on Dumesnil, finding but few birds on that ground, and wild; only got 9 there; a good many on Second Cypre-Mort; they also wild.

A short day, beginning late and finishing early.

5857 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 48°.

1875, March 11th; Thursday; 39th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

167 SNIPE; 1 hare; 2 wild duck (Pintail); 170 head.

Cloudy, dark day, bad light, southeast wind with light rain off and on all day.

Birds abundant, but very wild indeed; 8 on the

Harding burnt ground; the rest in the Deep-Prairie and Shallow-Sloughs.

I shot uncommonly well to-day.

Saw great numbers of Pintail ducks, but they were unapproachable except with great trouble, which I did not care to take.

6024 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 52°.

1875, March 13th; Saturday; 40th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

225 SNIPE; 2 partridges; 227 head.

The lower grounds being all submerged, I shot all day on the Penn-Meadows, and the old sedge fields of Emil Pete.

Birds numerous, and lying well.

A man shooting the grounds for about three and a half hours (though not near me) disturbed them very much, though he seemed to be shooting very badly, for he only killed 12 or 13. I finally gave him 25 snipe, and sent him off.

6229 SNIPE killed to date.

1875, March 15th; Monday; 41st day;

CYPRE-MORT;

171 SNIPE; 1 hare; 1 rail; 173 head.

Penn-Meadows 41; then drove to Third Cypre-Mort, and got 130 there, from 10 to 4; birds generally wild; cloudy.

6420 SNIPE killed to date.

1875, March 16th; Tuesday; 42d day;

CAMPERDOWN AND CYPRE-MORT;

125 SNIPE.

Began on Camperdown, getting 20 birds there, but finding very few birds on that ground, I left it and drove to Cypre-Mort, shooting Second and Third Cypre-Mort from 12 to 4, getting 105 more there.

I this day finished the season 1874–75, the best I ever had.

It has been so good that I have recorded here, every day's shooting of it, not only those of one hundred and over, but those under one hundred, of which latter there are only 6 of the 42.

I left the Snipery on the 18th of March, and returned on the 30th.

On the 5th of April, the day being cool, and bracing, I went to the Camperdown grounds to see if there were any birds here so late.

As they breed two or three thousand miles away, it is quite fair to kill them, as long as they are here. I found more than I expected, and killed 70 snipe and 4 Blue Wing teal, which are also great migrants.

As this, 5th of April, was an extra day after I had finished the season on the 16th of March, and was not a "day's" shooting (for I only shot part of the day), it is not numbered as a "Snipe day," though the 70 birds are included in the season's total, as are also 11 which I killed in the beginning of the season, when shooting ducks.

EIGHTH SEASON, 1874–75, 42 DAYS' SHOOTING.

Snipe.	Partridges.	Woodcock.	Hares.	Wild Duck.	Teal.	Rail.	Garde-Soleil.	Grouse.	Plover.	Head.	
6,615	43	1	9	19	14	14	7		5	6,727	Season, 1874-75.
22,257	346	111	47	41	29	309	91	16	40	23,287	Killed previously.
28,872	389	112	56	60	43	323	98	16	45	30,014	To date. 266 days.

CHAPTER XIII

EXTRACTS FROM THE "DAILY JOURNAL" OF THE GAME-BOOKS OF THE SNIPERY

NINTH SEASON, 1875–76

1875, November 1st; Monday; 1st day;

CYPRE-MORT;

130 SNIPE; 1 garde-soleil; 131 head.

First Cypre-Mort, 7; Dumesnil, 40; "Old Mill Ground," 3; Third Cypre-Mort, 80.

Birds quite abundant for so early in the season. Grounds fit.

No frost yet, and cover thick.

I arrived from Europe on the 23d October.

The summer of 1875 was an average one as regards moisture.

Between the 15th and 20th of September a great storm of wind and rain occurred, lasting several days.

Many fine trees, including the two handsome Egyptian cypress, were blown down at Oaklawn;

ARRIVING AT CYPRE-MORT

and many sugar-houses on Bayou Teche were also blown down and wrecked.

On October 29th a heavy rain.

In the summer of 1875 Penn's house was built on a ridge in Third Cypre-Mort and hereafter I will call the "Second" and "Third" Cypre-Mort Grounds, Penn-Pasture. Ther. 45°.

1875, November 3d; Wednesday; 2d day;
CYPRE-MORT;

116 SNIPE; 1 ring-neck duck; 1 garde-soleil; 118 head.

3 in First Cypre-Mort; 14, Dumesnil; 12, old mill pond; 12, Penn-Pasture; 7, Wayside willows. Tried "300 Ground" but found none there. 2, Pellerin; 66, Patout,—where I finished the day, killing there 66 between 3.20 and 4.40, when I knocked off.

246 SNIPE killed to date.

1875, November 6th; Saturday; 3d day;
CYPRE-MORT;

211 SNIPE; 1 wild duck (Shoveller); 1 green wing teal; 3 rail; 1 garde-soleil; 217 head.

First Cypre-Mort, 56, Dumesnil, 55,—111 by 11.30; 45, Patout; 30, Dumesnil, second shooting (85, total Dumesnil); 25, First Cypre-Mort, second shooting (81, total First Cypre-Mort).

Very dark and cloudy, with showers of rain, so heavy that at one time I thought of giving it up; much thunder and lightning; got soaked to the skin.

457 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 52°.

1875, November 8th; Monday; 4th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

114 SNIPE; 3 green wing teal; 4 rail; 6 garde-soleil; 127 head.

Went over much ground, as the birds were very much scattered, and lost a great deal of time in going from one ground to another.

Killed most of the birds between 12 and 3.30, when I stopped.

571 SNIPE killed to date.

1875, November 23d; Tuesday; 7th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

129 SNIPE; 2 partridges; 2 rail; 133 head.

Grounds very fit; saw a great many ducks, all over the marshes.

This evening about dusk, as I drove through Harding wood, heard a woodcock get up out of the road; strange for so mild and backward an autumn.

875 SNIPE killed to date.

1875, November 25th; Thursday; 8th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

144 SNIPE; 6 partridges; 3 rail; 153 head.

Birds numerous on First Cypre-Mort and Pellerin, but scarce elsewhere.

I went over much ground to-day.

1017 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 62°.

1875, November 27th; Saturday; 9th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

171 SNIPE; 3 partridges; 1 wild duck; 2 rail; 1 garde-soleil; 178 head.

First Cypre-Mort, 26; Dumesnil and adjacent cornfield, 112; Pellerin, 21; Penn-Pasture, 12.

I killed 75 in Dumesnil cornfield, where I have never before found birds.

1188 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 61°.

30,060 SNIPE killed to date, from 2d of December, 1867; 275 days' shooting.

1875, November 30th; Tuesday; 10th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

65 SNIPE; 1 partridge; 2 rail; 1 garde-soleil; 69 head.

Showers all day till 3 o'clock, when it poured down, and I gave it up.

1253 SNIPE in November. 10 days' shooting.

1253 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 56°.

1875, December 3d; Friday; 11th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

109 SNIPE; 1 rail; 3 garde-soleil; 113 head.

Began late and stopped early, shooting only for about four hours.

1362 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 62°.

1875, December 14th; Tuesday; 13th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

163 SNIPE.

Dumesnil, 65; Patout, 60; Pellerin, 10; and finished on First Cypre-Mort, getting 28 there.

1577 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 50°.

I went to New Orleans and Torwood on the 6th of December and returned on the 13th.

1875, December 16th; Thursday;

71 SNIPE

This I do not count as a day, as the wagon got smashed near the "300 Ground" before I fired a shot.

I only shot for an hour and a half, while my man July was procuring an ox-cart to convey the débris of the wagon home, as the smashup was so complete it had to be put on an ox-cart to be carried.

I rode one of the horses home.

There were not a great many birds as the vegetation was too rank, and there was too much water; but what birds there were kept coming back, and the shooting was quick and sharp while it lasted.

A heavy rain on my way home.

1875, December 18th; Saturday; 14th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

185 SNIPE; 4 partridges; 189 head.

First Cypre-Mort in front of Victorin, and adjoining field, 107; Dumesnil, 32. By 12 o'clock, 139; Patout and Pellerin, 16.

There were 9 men shooting those grounds, so I left them and drove towards the "300 Ground," but the wagon got badly bogged on the way, so finding it too late to shoot that ground, which is very far off, I drove through Patout and Pellerin, and finished the day on First Cypre-Mort, where I got 30 more.

1838 SNIPE killed to date.

1875, December 20th; Monday; 15th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

174 SNIPE; 2 garde-soleil; 176 head.

1, Penn-Pond; 31, Sorrell; 72 in "300 Ground" and adjacent fields; 1, De la Haussaye; 20, Pellerin; 15, Patout; 34, Dumesnil.

Moderate east wind and passing clouds. Birds wild; went over a great deal of ground to-day.

2007 SNIPE killed to date.

1875, December 22d; Wednesday; 16th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

156 SNIPE; 1 rail; 6 garde-soleil; 163 head.

Shot chiefly in the deep prairie, where I got 120; 20 in the Great-Sloughs; the rest I picked up anywhere and everywhere.

Dark, cloudy day; east wind. Birds wild and getting up in wisps. A great many birds flying about all day.

2165 SNIPE killed to date.

1875, December 24th; Friday; 17th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

122 SNIPE; 2 rail; 2 garde-soleil; 126 head.

Penn-Sloughs, 9; Sorrell, 6; "300 Ground," 49; Penn Pasture, 23, near old mill; Pellerin, 15; Patout, 14; Dumesnil, 6.

Knocked off at 3 o'clock. A short day, though I went over a great deal of ground.

Not many birds. A light shower of rain.

2287 SNIPE killed to date.

Henry and Stephen Duncan arrived on the 23d.

1875, December 27th; Monday; 18th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

102 SNIPE; 1 hare; 4 rail; 2 garde-soleil; 109 head.

Most of the birds in Deep-Prairie and Shallow-Sloughs, and flat between the Willow pond and osage orange hedge.

Dark, cloudy day, and very light east wind until 12, when the wind died away, and a light rain came on, which lasted until 3 o'clock, when I gave it up.

A bad day for snipe, as the light was very bad and the birds, which were not numerous, were wild, as they always are in wet weather.

2389 SNIPE killed to date.

1875, December 30th; Thursday; 19th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

113 SNIPE; 1 garde-soleil; 114 head.

Dumesnil, 58; Patout, 42; Pellerin, 5; Penn-Pasture, 5; Victorin, 3.

I put up in a low place around a small pond in front of Patout's house a large wisp of birds; I only got 16 of them, as they got up very much together and cleared out.

I have driven by this place very often in the past eight years, when shooting Cypre-Mort, and have never seen a bird there before.

For several days past the birds have been congregated together in large wisps, perhaps preparatory to migrating farther south.

Saw many robins to-day.

An uncommonly mild winter so far.

1249 SNIPE killed in December; 9 days' shooting.

2502 SNIPE killed to date.

1876, January 4th; Tuesday; 21st day;

CYPRE-MORT;

100 SNIPE; 1 hare; 1 rail; 1 garde-soleil; 103 head.

Penn-Sloughs, 11; Penn-Pond, 8; Sorrell, 14; "300 Ground" and adjacent rice fields, 27; "Old Mill in Penn-Ground," Penn-Pasture, 15; Pellerin, 2; Patout, 8; Dumesnil, 15.

Walking very hard, as the ground is unusually dry for this time of the year, and the birds were lying in very deep and soft grounds.

2656 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 46°.

1876, January 28th; Friday; 22d day;

CYPRE-MORT;

151 SNIPE.

Dumesnil, 6; Patout, 2; Pellerin, 1; Deep-Ground-South Penn-Pasture, 142. Saw but few birds anywhere except on the latter ground, where the mud was very soft, and the walking very hard.

I have never seen at this season the ground so dry as it is now; consequently the birds are lying in the boggiest part of the marsh.

2807 SNIPE killed to date.

I left for Torwood and Reserve on the 6th, and returned here on the 26th.

1876, January 31st; Monday; 23d day;

CAMPERDOWN;

84 SNIPE.

389 SNIPE killed in January; 4 days' shooting.

2891 SNIPE killed to date.

1876, February 2d; Wednesday; 24th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

177 SNIPE.

First Cypre-Mort, 12; Dumesnil, 8; Pellerin, 48; Penn-Pasture, 109. Birds scarce, except in Penn-Pasture. Lower grounds are flooded.

Shot upper grounds entirely.

Clear till about 2, when it clouded up; very cold all day; coldest day of the season.

3068 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 34°.

1876, February 4th; Friday; 25th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

98 SNIPE; 6 partridges; 1 rail; 105 head.

Penn-Meadows, 7; Sorrell Prairie, 3; Penn-Pasture, 45; Pellerin, 14; Patout, 13; First Cypre-Mort, 16.

Lower grounds quite flooded and much water everywhere from heavy rain yesterday; birds few and generally wild.

3166 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 41°.

1876, February 14th; Monday; 28th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

116 SNIPE.

Went over much ground to-day; shooting over most of the Cypre-Mort marshes.

Birds not numerous. Grounds getting in good order, but still too much water on them from recent heavy rains. Fresh north wind and clear, bright day.

3428 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 60°.

I left for New Orleans on the 10th, and returned Saturday evening, the 12th.

1876, February 16th; Wednesday; 29th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

110 SNIPE; 5 partridges; 1 wild duck; 116 head.

Penn-Sloughs, 6; Sorrell, 30; Penn-Pasture, 36; Pellerin, 17; Patout, 8; Dumesnil, 13.

Birds not abundant but lying well. Clear, bright, cold day.

3538 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 40°.

Had out for the first time to-day new gray horse Charley; a brute.

1876, February 18th; Friday; 30th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

121 SNIPE.

Northeast wind; clear day.

Birds generally lying on the various burnt grounds, on which I shot all day.

3659 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 48°.

1876, February 22d; Tuesday; 31st day;

CYPRE-MORT;

123 SNIPE.

Penn-Sloughs, Penn-Meadows, Sorrell and adjacent prairie, and Penn-Pasture.

Northeast wind; dark, cloudy day, with light rain at intervals; and coming home, a steady heavy rain.

3782 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 56°.

1876, February 26th; Saturday; 33d day;

CYPRE-MORT;

122 SNIPE; 1 partridge; 1 rail; 124 head.

Penn-Meadows, 25; Sorrell, 7; Sorrell Prairie, 11; Penn-Pasture, 64; Pellerin, 10; Dumesnil, 5.

3983 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 54°.

My son, Duncan, who arrived last evening from England, shot; his score not included above.

1876, Leap Year, February 29th; Tuesday; 34th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

171 SNIPE; 12 partridges; 183 head.

Penn-Sloughs, 6; Penn-Meadows, 35; Sorrell, 54; small green in front of Patout house, 6; Dumesnil, 60; Victorin, 10. Birds not very numerous but lying well.

1256 SNIPE in February; 11 days' shooting.

4154 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 56°.

1876, March 3d; Friday; 36th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

131 SNIPE; 6 partridges; 1 hare; 1 wild duck; 139 head.

Sorrell, 24; Empty Cartridge Ground, 69; Penn-Pasture, 8; Pellerin, 9; Patout, 1; Dumesnil, 16; First Cypre-Mort, 4. Grounds drying up rapidly and vegetation rank for the season.

Blue Iris has been in general bloom for some time; unusually early.

4320 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 43°.

1876, March 10th; Friday; 37th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

188 SNIPE; 1 rail; 3 garde-soleil; 192 head.

Penn-Sloughs, 6; Penn-Meadows and adjacent plow, 37; Sorrell, 19; Edward Segur and adjacent cornfields and rice patches, 37; Empty Cartridge

Ground, 20; Penn-Pasture, 50; Patout "Little Ground," 7; Dumesnil, 8; Victorin, 4.

Birds numerous but much scattered. I had to shoot over a great extent of ground and go long distances to make the bag.

Walking very hard, being so much in cornfields and plowed ground.

Much water everywhere, which accounts for the birds being so scattered.

4508 SNIPE killed to date.

1876, March 13th; Monday; 38th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

119 SNIPE.

Penn-Meadows and adjoining plowed ground, 38; Sorrell and adjacent prairie, 19; Ed. Segur and adjacent cornfields, 43; Penn-Pasture, 12; Pellerin, 7.

Much water everywhere, from heavy rain on Saturday, the 11th.

Birds abundant for so late in the season.

4627 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 41°.

General Myers arrived on the 10th of March.

1876, March 15th; Wednesday; 39th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

125 SNIPE.

Penn-Meadows, 9; Sorrell, 1; too much water on Sorrell; Ed. Segur and adjacent fields, 33; Empty Cartridge Ground, 16; Penn-Pasture, 48; Patout Little Ground, 4; Dumesnil, 10; Victorin, 4.

Fresh east wind shifting to the southward and westward, with occasional rain and squally at intervals. Many birds, but getting up wild in wisps.

4752 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 67°.

1876, March 18th; Saturday; 40th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

116 SNIPE; 1 hare; 117 head.

Victorin, 11; Dumesnil, 8; Patout Little Ground, 3; Pellerin, 12; Penn-Pasture, 19; Empty Cartridge Ground, 20; Ed. Segur and adjacent fields, 12; Sorrell, 20; Penn-Meadows, 4; Penn-Sloughs, 7.

Birds not numerous, evidently migrating; scattered about a good deal. Grounds very fit, though I had to go over much ground to make the bag. Birds lying well; killed a large proportion of those I saw.

4868 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 50°.

1876, March 21st; Tuesday; 41st day;

CYPRE-MORT;

120 SNIPE.

Penn-Meadows, 34; Sorrell Prairie, 41; Ed. Segur, 20; Penn-Pasture, 24; First Cypre-Mort, 1.

The coldest day of the season, and the coldest weather I have ever experienced in March.

4988 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 31°.

Duncan shot; his score not included above.

1876, March 23d; Thursday; 42d day;

CYPRE-MORT;

60 SNIPE; 1 garde-soleil; 61 head.

Birds much fewer than day before yesterday; evidently leaving. Finished to-day the season of 1875–76.

The past season has been the mildest I have ever known, since I have been shooting these grounds.

On the 20th and 21st of March the thermometer was 30° and 31°, which were the coldest days of the season. About an average rainfall. In December a little; in January much less rain than usual, and to make up for that, rather more than the average in February and March; the best season I have ever had here, barring the last, 1874–75.

NINTH SEASON, 1875–76; 42 DAYS' SHOOTING.*

SNIPE.	Partridges.	Woodcock.	Hares.	Wild Duck.	Teal.	Rail.	Garde-Soleil.	Grouse.	Plover.	HEAD.	
5,048	79		5	5	8	41	35			5,221	Season, 1875–76.
28,872	389	112	56	60	43	322	98	16	45	30,013	Killed previously.
33,920	468	112	61	65	51	363	133	16	45	35,234	To date. 308 days.

*3 of these bluewing killed on Oaklawn front.

PENN-PASTURE. "GETTING ON"

CHAPTER XIV

EXTRACTS FROM THE "DAILY JOURNAL" OF THE GAME-BOOKS OF THE SNIPERY.

TENTH SEASON, 1876–77.

1877, February 9th; Friday; 4th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

194 SNIPE; 4 partridges; 1 wild duck; 199 head.

Dumesnil, 6; Patout, 3; Pellerin and Calisse (the Calisse grounds adjoin Pellerin) 11; reached Penn-Pasture at 12.10, and between then and 4.15, killed 174.

Birds abundant on that ground and lying well.

428 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 44°.

I reached the Snipery from Europe on the 12th of October.

There was during the summer of 1876 about an average rainfall until the 1st of September, when a drouth set in and prevailed almost unbroken till the middle of December.

I rode and drove over a great extent of country,

but did not go out for a regular shoot till the 20th of January. All the marshes and prairies were very dry, so dry as to crack open, and the cattle had to be driven to the Bayou Teche, in some instances great distances, for water.

In driving over the grounds examining them, I picked up a few snipe, occasionally; 51 in all.

I have never begun shooting so late; the season will be a short one.

Arrived last evening from New Orleans.

1877, February 10th; Saturday; 5th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

163 SNIPE.

In the "300 Ground" 72; Penn-Pasture 91.

Clear, bright day; light, north wind.

591 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 46°.

1877, February 12th; Monday; 6th day;
CAMPERDOWN;

123 SNIPE; 1 rail; 124 head.

Deep-Prairie 53; Great and adjacent sloughs, 70.

Dark, cloudy day; light, steady rain, from 12.30 till dark.

714 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 52°.

1877, February 14th; Wednesday; 7th day;
CAMPERDOWN;

117 SNIPE; 9 partridges; 2 rail; 128 head.

Partridges killed in the Oxford field.

I did not begin with the snipe till 10.45. Birds lying a good deal on the burnt ground.

831 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 52°.

1877, February 16; Friday; 8th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

156 SNIPE.

Shot the "300 Ground" all day. Dark and cloudy till 2.30; when the sun shone out brightly.

A very enjoyable day, though the shooting was hard, as the birds were very wild.

987 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. sunrise, 47°.
Ther. sunset, 50°.

1877, February 19; Monday; 9th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

170 SNIPE.

Dumesnil, 41; Patout, 35; Pellerin, 30; Penn-Pasture, 64.

Dark and cloudy with light rain in latter part of the day.

Birds numerous, but somewhat wild.

Began in Dumesnil and shot straight through that ground, Patout, Pellerin, and Penn-Pasture; then retraced my steps and shot back over the same ground.

Shot all day on "The Green," or lower grounds, where all the birds were lying.

1157 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 42°.

Had out new setter "Shot" for the first time. Killed a raccoon on Penn-Pasture.

1877, February 21st; Wednesday; 10th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

225 SNIPE; 1 partridge; 1 wild duck; 227 head.

Dumesnil, 60; Patout, 17; Pellerin, 15; reaching Penn Pasture at 1.10, where I got 133 more; finishing the day there.

Birds wild until 1 o'clock, when they laid well for a couple of hours.

1382 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 40°.

Killed a large raccoon in a tree on Penn-Pasture.

1877, February 24th; Saturday; 12th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

110 SNIPE.

Dumesnil, Patout, Pellerin, Penn-Pasture, and "300 Ground".

Clear, bright day. Birds not numerous, but lying well.

1566 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 44°.

1877, February 26th; Monday; 13th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

123 SNIPE; 1 rail; 124 head.

Dumesnil, 27; Patout, 9; Pellerin and Calisse, 10; Penn-Pasture, 77; chiefly in the deep ground.

Birds not numerous, but lying well, considering the weather, which was dark and cloudy, with a northeast wind.

1689 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 48°.

1877, February 28th; Wednesday; 14th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

74 SNIPE.

Killed an alligator to-day, 6 feet long, near "Old Mill."

Penn gave me a sandhill crane in full plumage which he had winged and captured some days ago; it was quite tame already. Strange that these birds, which are very shy and wild, are very easily tamed in captivity.

1529 SNIPE killed in February; 11 days' shooting.

1763 SNIPE killed to date.

1877, March 5th; Monday; 17th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

103 SNIPE.

Otho Williams and my son Duncan shot; their score not included above.

1963 SNIPE killed to date.

1877, March 17th; Saturday; 23d day;

CYPRE-MORT;

105 SNIPE; 1 partridge; 1 teal; 107 head.

Birds abundant for so late in the season.

2425 SNIPE killed to date.

Williams and Duncan shot; their score not included above.

1877, March 19th; Monday; 24th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

171 SNIPE; 2 partridges; 1 wild duck; 174 head.

Dumesnil, 24; Patout, 2; Pellerin, 4; Penn-Pasture, 75; Sorrell, 26; Penn-Meadows, 30; Penn-Sloughs, 10.

Birds abundant.

2596 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 45°.

Otho Williams and my son Duncan have been shooting with me for some time past; their score not included above.

1877, March 21st; Wednesday; 25th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

131 SNIPE; 1 partridge; 132 head.

First Cypre-Mort (De la Grave's field), 19; Penn-Meadows, 8; Longinais, 7; Ed. Segur, 19; "300 Ground," 9; Sorrell, 9; Penn-Pasture, 60.

Much water everywhere from heavy rain last night.

2727 SNIPE killed to date.

Otho Williams, who arrived on the 2d of March, left on the 19th.

1877, March 23d; Friday; 26th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

148 SNIPE.

Dumesnil, 14; Longinais, 8; Sorrell, 23; Segur, 13; Empty Cartridge Ground, 15; Penn-Pasture, 75.

Birds numerous for so late in the season, but wild, except in Penn-Pasture, where they laid well.

A few robins still here to-day. Saw a grass plover and a large flock of golden plover migrating.

2875 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 51°.

1877, March 24th; Saturday; 27th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

126 SNIPE; 3 partridges; 129 head.

Dumesnil, 13; Penn-Meadows, 1; Sorrell, 8; "300 Ground," 30; Penn-Pasture, 74.

Birds wild and in diminished numbers.

Dark and cloudy; light very bad; heavy rain at 1 o'clock, lasting about half an hour.

3001 SNIPE killed to date.

1877, March 26th; Monday; 28th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

108 SNIPE.

Shot to-day very much the same ground as yesterday and for several days past. Birds in diminished numbers.

I killed to-day a very large proportion of those I saw; and as it is so late in the season and I do not believe any fresh birds are coming in, I do not think it worth going out again, and so I finish the season to-day.

1346 SNIPE killed in March. 14 days' shooting.

3109 SNIPE killed to date.

The winter of 1876–77 was the coldest I have ever experienced since I have been shooting these grounds; the autumn of 1876 very dry; so dry that the grounds for the greater part of the season were so hard and unfit that the birds did not come to them; and I had no shooting of any consequence till February 9th.

I was told that there were great numbers of woodcock near New Iberia, about thirty miles from the

Snipery, during the cold weather of December and January, but I was absent and did not get a shy at them.

I finished the season on March 26th; but in April I went to Cypre-Mort and killed 7 snipe and 5 Papa bôte in Penn-Pasture. I only shot for about three quarters of an hour; both snipe and Papa bôte were in fine condition.

Too late in the season to shoot, but both snipe and Papa bôte are such great migrants, breeding at such a great distance from here, that it is not quite inexcusable to shoot them as long as they are here, especially as the chances are that they would have been killed by some pot-hunter on the way to their breeding places, as we have in our country no game laws, or what game laws we have are not enforced. As a rule, though, I don't like to do it on principle.

TENTH SEASON, 1876–77; 28 DAYS' SHOOTING.*

SNIPE.	Partridges.	Woodcock.	Hares.	Wild Duck.	Teal.	Rail.	Garde-Soleil.	Grouse.	Plover.	HEAD.	
* 3,116	47		3	5	7	4			7	3,189	Season, 1876-77.
33,920	468	112	61	65	51	363	133	16	45	35,234	Killed previously.
37,036	515	112	64	70	58	367	133	16	52	38,423	To date. 336 days.

* 7 of these snipe and 5 plover—Papa bôte— killed in April.

AT THE END OF THE DAY. "READY FOR HOME"

CHAPTER XV

EXTRACTS FROM THE "DAILY JOURNAL" OF THE GAME-BOOKS OF THE SNIPERY

ELEVENTH SEASON; 1877–78

1877, November 12th; Monday; 1st day;

CYPRE-MORT;

162 SNIPE; 10 rail; 3 garde-soleil; 175 head.

First Cypre-Mort, 19; Dumesnil, 16; Penn-Pasture, 127. Much water everywhere, birds lying well.

Ther. 35°.

I arrived at the Snipery on the 13th of October, 1877. A great gale with floods of rain had prevailed on the 18th and 19th of September. No rain after then till the 17th of October, when it rained heavily all day, filling with water all the sloughs and Deep-Prairie.

After the 17th, the month of October was the wettest I have ever known; a good thing for the shooting.

1877, November 14th; Wednesday; 2d day;

CYPRE-MORT;

172 SNIPE; 6 rail; 5 garde-soleil; 183 head.

First Cypre-Mort, 3; Dumesnil, 41; Pellerin, 3; Penn-Pasture, 125.

Much water everywhere; clear day; very warm.

I shot uncommonly well to-day, especially the latter part of the day.

334 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 63°.

1877, November 24th; Saturday; 7th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

100 SNIPE; 4 rail; 104 head.

Dumesnil, 22, in Briar Corner, next Patout; Penn-Pasture, 78.

Birds not numerous but lying well. Roads shocking; got badly bogged in lane, next Dumesnil.

I saw to-day, at about 100 yards from me, a hawk pursue and catch a snipe on the wing; Pigeon Hawk; Falco Columbarius.

On the 17th of November, 4th day of this season, I used for the first time a Purdey choke I got in London last summer. Heretofore I have chiefly used a Purdey Cylinder, an uncommonly hard, close-shooting gun.

749 SNIPE killed in November; 7 days' shooting.

749 SNIPE killed to date.

1877, December 8th; Saturday; 8th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

270 SNIPE; 1 hare; 2 Blue Wing; 1 green-wing teal; 2 rail; 276 head.

Dumesnil, 75; Pellerin, 73; Penn-Pasture, 122. Northeast wind; clear, bright day.

1019 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 32°, sunrise; 41°, 8 P.M. Grant gun. Dash.

I left for Torwood on the 26th of November, and returned here last evening.

1877, December 10th; Monday; 9th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

255 SNIPE; 3 garde-soleil; 258 head.

Dumesnil, 44; Patout, 50; Pellerin, 36; Penn-Pasture, 125.

Light, east wind; overcast; the sun shining at intervals first part of the day; after 1 o'clock cloudy and dark, and light very bad.

Cover rather sparse; birds wild, lying in the deep ground, where the walking was hard.

Purdey choke. Dash.

1274 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 38°.

1877, December 11th; Tuesday; 10th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

366 SNIPE; 1 teal; 4 rail; 3 garde-soleil; 374 head.

Penn-Pasture all day. Light, east wind and clear until 1 o'clock, when the sky was overcast with heavy clouds, and the light became very bad.

Birds very numerous though wild, as they generally are in such weather, but they were well distributed all over the grounds, and the shooting was not only very fast, but very regular.

Having had such a hard day and taken so many birds out of the grounds yesterday, I did not expect to find so many to-day and made a late start, and having a long drive over bad roads, I did not begin to shoot till 10 o'clock and finished at 4, shooting only 6 hours, but I kept very hard at it, while I was about it; and shooting the same grounds all day, I lost no time, as I generally have to do, in going from one ground to another.

I lost much time, though, in gathering the dead birds, as I unfortunately had only one dog out, and he being old and much used up by the hard work of the past two days, was very slow in "finding dead," which was all I wanted of him.

I had two markers, Henry and another negro, all day, and three from 12 o'clock; when Penn, hearing the shooting, came to me, and I pressed him into the service; Henry is always to the fore, and first rate, but the others were of little use, except to carry the birds and cartridges.

1640 SNIPE killed to date.

Purdey choke. Dash.

1877, December 13th; Thursday; 11th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

271 SNIPE; 1 rail; 272 head.

Penn-Pasture all day. Light east wind and cloudy. Birds numerous, but wild the greater part of the day, except for about two hours, when I found them in some thick cover.

1911 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 57°.

Purdey choke. Dash.

1877, December 15th; Saturday; 12th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

286 SNIPE; 1 teal; 1 rail; 288 head.

Dumesnil, 18; Patout, 12; Pellerin, 15; Far Pellerin, 94; Penn-Pasture ("Snake Ground"; "Williams Ground"; ground back of Penn's house), 147.

Light southeast wind, and sun shining from 11 to 1, but before and after that cloudy, and after 2 o'clock, the light very bad.

2197 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 56°.

Purdey choke, 86; Grant gun, 200. Dash.

1877, December 17th; Monday; 13th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

233 SNIPE; 2 rail; 235 head.

Sorrell, 61; "300 Ground," 4; Penn-Pasture, 168.

Light east wind with passing clouds; very foggy in the morning.

Lost just one hour in going to the "300 Ground," which I found grown up with weeds, and quite unfit.

Birds in Penn-Pasture in diminished numbers, showing the effects of the past week's hard shooting.

2430 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 58°.

Grant gun, 173; Purdey choke, 60. Shot and Dash.

1877, December 19th; Wednesday; 14th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

262 SNIPE; 1 wild duck; 1 Blue Wing, 1 Green Wing teal; 265 head.

Dumesnil, 26; Patout, 10; Pellerin, 22; Far Pellerin marsh, 13; Penn-Pasture, 191. The latter ground from 1.15 to 5. Chiefly "Raccoon," "Old Mill," "Williams," "Snake," and "South" Grounds.

A good deal of water in the deep parts of Penn-Pasture, but grounds getting very fit all over. I shot generally in the green to-day. East wind; passing clouds.

2692 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 60°.

Purdey choke, 26; Grant gun, 236.

In the past seven consecutive shooting-days, I have killed to my own gun, 1943 snipe; the best seven consecutive shooting-days I have ever had. 1268 of them killed in Penn-Pasture, which, take it altogether, is the best and most reliable ground, for all kinds of weather, within reach of me.

1877, December 21st; Friday; 15th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

55 SNIPE.

Penn-Sloughs, 10; Penn-Meadows, 20; Sorrell, 2; Emil Pete, 2; Penn-Pasture, 4; the only four I saw

on that ground, where day before yesterday I killed 191, and in the past 7 days' shooting 1268. These 4 birds I found to-day on the "Middle Ridge" (the grounds which I have been shooting since 8th December being all deeply submerged, did not hold a single bird). La Grave field, 17.

Southeast wind with passing clouds. Easterly gale yesterday with heavy rain; and a downpour for several hours in the night.

Shot entirely on the upper grounds, for all the lower ones were deeply submerged. The change of weather has, I think, sent most of the birds away. They have probably gone farther south, and the few which are left are scattered everywhere; for the present, the shooting has quite broken down.

2747 SNIPE killed to date.

On Sunday, 23d, I rode over the Camperdown grounds.

The Deep-Prairie was quite submerged; the upper grounds fit, as regards cover and moisture, but I saw very few birds on them.

1877, December 26th; Wednesday; 16th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

156 SNIPE; 1 rail; 157 head.

Shot altogether on the upper grounds; lower ones being still too much flooded.

First Cypre-Mort, 17; La Grave field, 8; Dumesnil, 12; Penn-Slough, 15; Penn-Meadows, 18; Sorrell, 86.

2154 SNIPE in December; 9 days' shooting.
2903 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 44°.

Stopped shooting early, as I am leaving for Torwood and Reserve this evening.

1878, January 23d; Wednesday; 17th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

142 SNIPE.

Penn-Sloughs and Meadows, 15; Sorrell, 48; Penn-Pasture, 79.

Grounds generally fit, though still a little too much water on the lower ones.

3045 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 39°.

Purdey Cylinder. Don and Shot.

Left for Torwood and Reserve on evening of 26th December, and returned last evening.

40,081 SNIPE killed to date from 2d December, 1867; 353 days' shooting.

1878, January 25th; Friday; 18th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

135 SNIPE; 2 green wing teal; 1 rail; 2 garde-soleil; 140 head.

Penn-Pasture, 71; Pellerin and Calisse, 54; Patout, 10.

Birds scare, as they usually are in January; rather wild, especially in the afternoon, when I used the Choke to great advantage.

Purdey Cylinder in the morning; Choke in the afternoon. Dash and Shot.

446 SNIPE killed in January; 4 days' shooting.
3180 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 54°.

1878, February 11th; Monday; 21st day;
CAMPERDOWN;

129 SNIPE; 2 partridges; 131 head.

Clear, bright day; light northwest wind. Rather too much water on the grounds.

Birds rather numerous, but getting up in wisps, and taking long flights. I think most of them have lately come in.

3478 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 30°.

Left for Torwood on 31st January, and returned on the 9th of February.

1878, February 12th; Tuesday; 22d day;
CYPRE-MORT;

124 SNIPE.

Penn-Pasture all day. East wind and cloudy. One of the darkest days on which I have ever shot; light very bad. Birds abundant, but uncommonly wild.

It began to rain at 12 o'clock, when the wind died away, and birds became quite unapproachable, so much so that I came near giving it up, but an easterly wind again springing up, I persevered, and made a good bag, considering the wildness of the birds.

3602 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 38.

Purdey choke. Don.

1878, February 14th; Thursday; 23d day;
CYPRE-MORT;

137 SNIPE.

Penn-Slough, 7; Penn-Meadow, 61; Sorrell higher grounds, 28; Penn-Pasture, 41.

Much water everywhere from heavy rain, Tuesday night.

3739 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 46°.

1878, February 21st; Thursday; 27th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

136 SNIPE.

Most of the birds in Deep-Prairie, but found, as usual at this season, a good many on Lacey burnt field.

4061 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 57°.

Philip Schuyler shot; his score not included above.

He arrived on the evening of the 16th, and has been shooting with me since then; though owing to the scarcity of the birds, we have not had good sport.

1878, February 23d; Saturday; 28th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

138 SNIPE.

Dumesnil, 20; Penn-Pasture, 100; chiefly on Snake Ground, when birds were abundant; few anywhere else; Calisse, 18.

Saw large wisps coming into Calisse Ground when I stopped.

4199 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 55°.

Schuyler shot; his score not included above.

The Misses Travers, Williams, and Gould Redmond arrived this evening.

1878, February 25th; Monday; 29th day;
CAMPERDOWN;

176 SNIPE.

Birds numerous, lying chiefly in the Deep-Prairie. The usual wisp on the Lacey burnt field. Also a good many in the Great-Sloughs. Grounds generally very fit.

4375 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 50°.

I to-day made a very satisfactory double. Two snipe came overhead, one much higher than the other. I took the higher with my first and the lower with my second barrel, and they both fell stone dead, reaching the ground exactly at the same instant, close to my feet.

Williams and Redmond shot; their score not included above. Schuyler accompanied us, but did not shoot.

1878, February 27th; Wednesday; 30th day;
CAMPERDOWN;

130 SNIPE; 1 partridge; 131 head.

Birds quite abundant at first, but getting up in wisps and clearing out.

1156 SNIPE killed in February; 10 days' shooting.

4505 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 48°.

1878, March 1st; Friday; 31st day;
CYPRE-MORT;

97 SNIPE; 4 wild duck; 101 head.

Calisse, 6; Penn-Pasture, 78; Pierre Cerf's Marsh, 13.

4602 SNIPE killed to date.
Purdy choke. Don and Dash.

1878, March 4th; Monday; 32d day;

CYPRE-MORT;

111 SNIPE; 1 hare; 1 wild duck; 113 head.
Dumesnil, 38; Patout, 5; Calisse, 15; Penn-Pasture, 53.

I killed to-day two large venomous-looking moccasin snakes. The dog "Shot" was bitten by one of them; his fore-leg swelled very much, and he seemed to be in great pain.

The Moccasin snake, sometimes called Cotton-Mouth, is found in the marshes here, in early autumn, and in the spring; its bite is poisonous, but never fatal. I have never been bitten or have I ever known any one to be bitten by them, though they are ugly looking reptiles.

4713 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 43°.
Williams shot; his score not included above.

1878, March 5th; Tuesday; 33d day;

CAMPERDOWN;

124 SNIPE.
Birds scarce in the early part of the day, but I found in the latter part large numbers on the Lacey burnt ground, which was very hard and dry. They got up wild, but scattered about in the Sloughs and Dee-Prairie, and afforded capital sport in the afternoon.

I think, from my observation for some years past, that at this season snipe lie during the day a good deal on the uplands; as on the old burnt field of Lacey, where I always find them about this time, however hard and dry it may be; perhaps congregating for the spring migration northward.

4837 SNIPE killed to date.

1878, March 13th; Wednesday; 36th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

143 SNIPE; 1 hare; 1 rail; 145 head.

Penn-Sloughs, 1; Penn-Meadows, 42; Sorrell, 57; Penn-Pasture, 43.

Spring coming on apace.

Purdey Cylinder, 23; Purdey choke, 120.

5115 SNIPE killed to date.

The dog "Shot," which was bitten by a snake, on the 4th, quite recovered, and none the worse for the bite.

Otho Williams, who has been here shooting with me since the 21st February, left yesterday; his score not included.

1878, March 16th; Saturday; 38th day;
CAMPERDOWN;

47 SNIPE.

Very few birds.

I finished to-day the season of 1877–78.

Birds have nearly all left for the North.

735 SNIPE killed in March. 8 days' shooting.

5240 SNIPE killed to date.

I left for Torwood and New Orleans on the 20th of March, and returned here on the evening of 4th April.

The 5th being a cool and bracing day, though I had finished the season on the 16th of March, I went to Camperdown, and shot for a short time in the afternoon; finding more birds here than I expected so late in the season, and getting 51 snipe, 2 Blue Wing teal.

The next day, the 6th, I went again in the afternoon, and put up 28, killing 23 of them.

The December shooting was the best I have ever had, I having killed 1943 snipe in 7 consecutive shooting-days, and 2154 in the month of December in 9 days' shooting.

I fear the shooting will not continue much longer so good as it has been heretofore, for much of the land, old fields, etc., over which I have been shooting, having been thrown out of cultivation during the war and left uncultivated and unenclosed for some years after, are now being reclaimed, fenced, drained, and put in cultivation.

The negroes, too, are buying up small tracts on different parts of the prairie, and fencing and cultivating them, which makes it harder to get from one ground to another, for instead of driving across the prairie after shooting one ground, to a fresh one, as I have done heretofore, I am obliged to stick to the roads, which are generally very bad in winter, and am often obliged to make long detours, and go very slowly, thus losing much time.

ELEVENTH SEASON, 1877–78; 38 DAYS' SHOOTING.*

SNIPE.	Partridges.	Woodcock.	Hares.	Wild Duck.	Teal.	Rail.	Garde-Soleil.	Grouse.	Plover.	HEAD.	
5,314	3		3	6	14	45	27		6	5,418	38 days. 1877–78.
37,036	515	112	64	70	58	367	133	16	52	38,423	Killed previously.
42,350	518	112	67	76	72	412	160	16	58	43,841	To date. 374 days.

*74 snipe killed in April.

CHAPTER XVI

EXTRACTS FROM THE "DAILY JOURNAL" OF THE GAME-BOOKS OF THE SNIPERY

TWELFTH SEASON, 1878–79

1878, November 25th; Monday; 1st day;

CYPRE-MORT;

213 SNIPE; 2 rail; 3 garde-soleil; 218 head.

Penn-Pasture (the higher grounds) the whole day.

Began late,—about ten o'clock,—the horses having bogged down in the Old Mill Ground before I put up a bird, and I had much difficulty in extricating the wagon.

It began to rain at three o'clock and poured down, so I stopped at three ten.

I had a short day of it but a lively one, for the birds were abundant, though wild, as they usually are on a cloudy day. Ther. 64°.

I did not arrive at the Snipery until the evening of the 23d of November.

During the summer 1878 the rains were very

LIVE OAK

On the snipe grounds surrounding this tree I killed on the 11th of December 1877, three hundred and sixty-six snipe; and the next time I shot there, two hundred and seventy-one—six hundred and thirty-seven in the two days.

partial; much more rain on the Cypre-Mort Grounds than on the Camperdown, consequently the former are in better order than the latter.

I find great progress has been made during the past summer in the fencing in of the prairie, which had been of late commenced.

The Sorrell Ground is fenced in, also a great part of the Sorrell, Longinais, and Emil Pete Prairies and old sedge fields of Emil Pete.

Began the season with the following horses: Reserve, White Stockings, Sally, Kitty, Molly, Hester. Dogs: Don, Shot, and Dash; the latter superannuated.

1878, November 28th; Thursday; 2d day;

CYPRE-MORT;

123 SNIPE; 1 rail; 3 garde-soleil; 1 plover; 128 head.

Penn-Pasture (higher grounds), 90; Pellerin, 9; Patout, 9; Dumesnil, 15.

The season, so far, very mild. I do not think the birds have yet come south in any numbers.

336 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 34°.

1878, November 30th; Saturday; 3d day;

CYPRE-MORT;

71 SNIPE; 3 rail; 1 garde-soleil; 75 head.

407 SNIPE killed in November; 3 days' shooting.

407 SNIPE killed to date.

1878, December 2d; Monday; 4th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

154 SNIPE; 1 hare; 1 wild duck; 4 garde-soleil; 160 head.

Penn-Sloughs, 6; Penn-Meadows, 1; Sorrell, 3; Penn-Pasture, 144.

Birds not very numerous, but lying well.

I find the higher Cypre-Mort Ground much enclosed since last season, and the fencing chiefly of horrible barbed wire, most difficult to get over or through.

561 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 37°.

1878, December 4th; Wednesday; 5th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

125 SNIPE; 1 rail; 1 garde-soleil; 127 head.

I drove to Kilgour, about 20 miles across the prairie. A large extent of beautiful ground and very fit, but no birds on it; only killed 4 there.

Then turned back and drove to Penn-Pasture, picking up on the Empty Cartridge Ground and Pierre Cerf's marsh, 9, all I saw. In Penn-Pasture I got 64, nearly all I found there; Pellerin, 7; Patout, 7; Dumesnil, 34. Went over a great extent of country to-day; but though the grounds were very fit, there were but few birds.

686 SNIPE to date. Ther. 42°.

To-day, a snipe getting up behind me, I took a long snap shot at it; it flew a little way and then towered, dying in the air about 100 ft. high, and as

he was falling dead, a hawk swooped down and caught him in the air about 50 ft. from the ground and carried him off.

1878, December 6th; Friday; 6th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

102 SNIPE; 1 rail; 5 garde-soleil; 108 head.

Birds very scarce everywhere; though the grounds are getting very fit, except the "300" Ground, which is, as it was last season, so grown up with weeds that it will not be fit this season. Indeed, I fear it is destroyed as a snipe ground, for it is, though not actually fenced in itself, so surrounded by fences that the cattle have not access to it to keep down the weeds with which it is smothered.

788 SNIPE to date. Ther. 39°.

1878, December 10th; Tuesday 8th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

136 SNIPE; 1 rail; 4 garde-soleil; 141 head.

Penn-Pasture, 93; Pellerin, 7; Patout, 17; Dumesnil, 19.

More birds in Penn-Pasture than I left there on Friday last.

An unusually mild winter so far, only very thin ice on one or two days.

1014 SNIPE to date. Ther. 34°.

1878, December 23d; Monday; 9th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

119 SNIPE.

Penn-Meadow, 5; Longinais Prairie, 16; Empty Cartridge Ground, 4; Penn-Pasture, 94.

A bright, cold morning; much ice on the road; clouding up about 11; afternoon, cloudy and dark; light very bad.

I went over much ground to-day, reaching Penn-Pasture at 1 o'clock. Not many birds there at first, but they seemed to be coming in, and I eventually got 94 on that ground.

I got 16 in a very short time on Longinais Prairie in a small bit of ground near the house of an old negro; and as the shooting was very rapid the negro was so pleased that he exclaimed: "I'm gwine (going) to take a whole day to follow de old fellow and see him knock 'em down."

1133 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 30°.

I left for New Orleans and Torwood on the 13th December, and returned here on the evening of the 21st.

1878, December 26th (not a snipe day);

CYPRE-MORT;

32 SNIPE in Penn-Pasture.

Northwest wind, dark and cloudy, and very cold.

Ther. did not go above 36° at any time during the day.

Both upper and lower grounds all submerged; so that there was scarcely any ground left out of water to shoot over. So after a couple of hours, having shot over all the ground not under water, I gave it up.

Torrents of rain almost incessant since the night of the 23d, inclusive.

The weather is so hopeless and the ground so flooded and the birds so few, that I will not shoot again until my return from Torwood and Reserve, where I intend going in a few days.

768 SNIPE killed in December. 6 days' shooting.

1165 SNIPE killed to date.

1879, January 11th; Saturday (A cock day);

24 WOODCOCK.

I left for New Orleans, Torwood, and Reserve on the 30th December, and returned last evening.

Such cold weather has prevailed here for some time past, I thought I would try for Cock.

I found a good many birds; but the cover was so high and thick that I only got 24. They were lying in very tall cane, and many of the birds that got up (indeed the majority) I could not see at all; could only hear.

Raining steadily all day; a downpour the latter part, and blowing such a gale that (the shooting being in tall timber) the boughs of the trees were falling in all directions; so that it was very dangerous.

1879, January 31st; Friday; 10th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

235 SNIPE.

Dumesnil, 102; Penn-Pasture, 99; Pellerin, 34.

Birds numerous and generally lying well.

This is the best day I have ever had in January, which as a rule is a bad month for snipe.

I returned from New Orleans and Torwood on the 30th of January.

I have not had any snipe-shooting lately, for I had a bad fall from my horse at Torwood, about the middle of January, and was threatened with pneumonia, and have been suffering from a severe attack of rheumatic gout. The first illness I have had for many years, of any kind.

In all the 11 years of my shooting here I have never before been prevented from shooting by any kind of ailment; notwithstanding all the exposure I have gone through in all kinds of weather.

1400 SNIPE killed to date.

1879, February 1st; Saturday; 11th day;

CAMPERDOWN AND CYPRE-MORT;

124 SNIPE.

Camperdown, 10; Cypre-Mort, 114.

I began on Camperdown, but finding very few birds there, after getting 10, I crossed the Teche and went to Cypre-Mort.

I began late and did not reach Dumesnil till 12.30 and shot till 4, when I stopped; getting on Dumes-

nil, Patout, and Pellerin, 114 birds in the 3½ hours I shot those grounds.

A short, but a very enjoyable day. I killed a very large proportion of the birds I saw.

Purdey cylinder. Don and Shot.

1524 SNIPE killed to date.

My man, Henry, seized last night with a very severe attack of pneumonia.

1879, February 6th; Thursday; 14th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

113 SNIPE.

Penn-Pasture. Birds not evenly distributed but lying chiefly on Old Mill and South Marsh; 64 in the former, 49 in the latter ground. Birds abundant in those grounds, but nowhere else. Walking hard.

1770 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 48°.

Purdey Cylinder. Don.

1879, February 8th; Saturday; 15th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

144 SNIPE.

Penn-Pasture, South Marsh, 85; Pellerin, 17; Old Mill Ground and adjoining burnt field of Louis Leon, 42.

Walking hard; not so many birds as day before yesterday, but they laid better; and being alone, I did more with them.

1914 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 37°.

1879, February 10th; Monday; 16th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

112 SNIPE.
Penn-Sloughs, 18; Dumesnil, 30; Patout, 3, all I saw on that ground; Pellerin, 6; Penn-Pasture, 55.
2026 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 53°.

1879, February 15th; Saturday; 18th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

117 SNIPE.
Dumesnil, 36; Penn-Pasture, 81.
Purdey Cylinder. Don and Shot.
2288 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 36°
Duncan shot; his score not included above.

1879, February 17th; Monday; 19th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

104 SNIPE; 1 wild duck (Gadwall); 105 head.
Dumesnil, 43; Penn-Pasture, 45; Pellerin, 16.
Purdey Cylinder, 48; Purdey Choke, 56.
2288 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 63°.
Duncan shot; his score not included above.

1879, February 19th; Wednesday; 20th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

97 SNIPE.
Dumesnil, 39; Penn-Pasture, 45; Pellerin, 6; Patout, 7.
2385 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 36.
Purdey Cylinder. Don and Shot.
Duncan shot; his score not included above.

1879, February 21st; Friday; 21st day;
CYPRE-MORT;

117 SNIPE.

Dumesnil, 8; Patout, 9; Pellerin, 9; Penn-Pasture, 91.

Not so many birds in Dumesnil as day before yesterday, but more in Penn-Pasture.

2502 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 45°.

Purdey Cylinder. Don and Shot.

Duncan shot; his score not included above.

1879, February 24th; Monday; 22d day;
CYPRE-MORT;

125 SNIPE.

Dumesnil 11; Pellerin, 17; Penn-Pasture, 97.

Light S. W. wind; clear, bright day.

Birds scarce in Dumesnil and not numerous anywhere, but lying so well that I killed a large proportion of those I saw.

2627 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 42°

Purdey Cylinder, No. 9 shot, about 40 snipe.

Purdey Choke, No. 8 shot, about 85.

1879, February 26th; Wednesday; 23d day;
CYPRE-MORT;

102 SNIPE.

Dumesnil, 17; Patout, 5; Pellerin, 7; Penn-Pasture, 73.

1325 SNIPE killed in February; 13 days' shooting.

2729 SNIPE killed to date.

Purdey Choke. Don and Shot.

In driving home to-day, I had an awkward spill from the wagon from careless driving, having driven over a stump in the Harding Wood, which in the dusk I did not see.

The wagon was smashed and I came very near being severely injured; was very much shaken and bruised.

1879, March 5th; Wednesday; 26th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

123 SNIPE; 2 partridges; 1 hare; 126 head.

Penn-Sloughs, 4; Penn-Pond, 23; Sorrell, 73; "300" Ground, 23.

Birds numerous in Sorrell Ground, the first time this season I have found any there; only a few in the "300" Ground.

2981 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 49°.

Purdey Cylinder first; Purdy Choke latter part of day.

This day makes just 400 days of "Snipe-Shooting" I have had on these grounds since the 2d of December, 1867, inclusive; killing to my own gun 45,321 snipe.

Of these 45,321, there are 323 killed on parts of other days, when for some reason I only shot for a short time, or on days when I was shooting other game. (See Game-Book, vol. ii., page 40.)

Otho Williams, who arrived on 28th of February, has been shooting with me since then; his score not included above.

1879, March 13th; Thursday; 29th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

30 SNIPE; 2 hares; 1 garde-soleil; 33 head.

Birds very few, and those few very wild; getting up in wisps, and clearing out; grounds all flooded. To-day I finished the season of 1878–79.

356 SNIPE killed in March; 6 days' shooting.

3085 SNIPE killed to date.

The winter of 1878–79 was a late one; no cold until late in December and in January, in which latter month there was a severe spell of cold weather. February and March dry.

The March shooting was worse than I have ever had here; why, I do not know, for the grounds were very fit. Bad nesting season probably.

The railway from New Orleans was completed to within one mile of Franklin, and to within 8 miles of the Snipery on the 18th of April, 1878.

TWELFTH SEASON, 1878–79; 29 DAYS' SHOOTING.

SNIPE.	Partridges.	Woodcock.	Hares.	Wild Duck.	Teal.	Rail.	Garde-Soleil.	Grouse.	Plover.	HEAD.	
3,085	18	24	4	3		12	23		2	3,171	29 days, 1878–79.
42,350	518	112	67	76	72	412	160	16	58	43,841	Killed previously.
45,435	536	136	71	79	72	424	183	16	60	47,012	To date, 403 days.

CHAPTER XVII

EXTRACTS FROM THE "DAILY JOURNAL" OF THE GAME-BOOKS OF THE SNIPERY

THIRTEENTH SEASON, 1879–80

1879, November 20th; Wednesday; 1st day;
CYPRE-MORT;

85 SNIPE.

Penn-Pasture, 62; Pellerin, 18; Patout, 5.

Purdey Cylinder. Shot.

I arrived at the Snipery last evening, the 19th.

On the first of last September a great hurricane prevailed in this parish, doing much damage, blowing down many sugar-houses and dwellings on the Bayou Teche, and on the prairie; blew down the chimneys of the Snipery and damaged the building in other respects. It also blew down many fine oaks on Oaklawn. Ther. 46°.

1879, November 22d; Saturday; 2d day;
CYPRE-MORT;

91 SNIPE; 1 Gadwall; 92 head.

176 SNIPE in November; 2 days' shooting.

176 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 36°.

COULÉE ON CYPRE-MORT

1879, December 6th; Saturday; 3d day;
CYPRE-MORT;

166 SNIPE; 1 rail; 167 head.

Dumesnil, 4; Penn-Pasture, 137; Pellerin, 25. Birds not numerous, but lying well.

Grounds not in good condition. Lower ones flooded; higher ones hard. Cover sparse.

Purdey Cylinder.

342 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 40°.

I left for Torwood on 25th November and returned here 4th of December, 1879.

1879, December 8th; Monday; 4th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

93 SNIPE.

Penn-Pasture, 80; Patout, 13.

Had out to-day for the first time Black Setter Jet; very green on snipe, never having seen one before; would not acknowledge them alive or dead, but very fast and active, and fond of the gun. I hope to make a good snipe dog of him. All this season I have been practically shooting without a dog, for I lost two last summer, and my only one left, "Shot," has been so ailing and out of condition as to be useless.

435 SNIPE killed to date.

Purdey Cylinder. Jet.

Trains began this day to run regularly from New Orleans to New Iberia, on the Morgan, Louisiana, and Texas Railway, afterwards extended to San Francisco and called "The Southern Pacific."

1879, December 20th; Saturday; 8th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

101 SNIPE; 4 rail; 105 head.
675 SNIPE killed to date.

1879, December 22d; Monday; 9th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

27 SNIPE.
526 SNIPE killed in December; 7 days' shooting.
702 SNIPE killed to date.

1880, January 12th; Monday; 10th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

127 SNIPE.

Lost much time by smashing the wagon on the way to the grounds.

829 SNIPE killed to date.

I left for Torwood on 27th of December and returned on the 9th of January, accompanied by Stephen Duncan and Dr. Carter.

1880, January 17th; Saturday; 12th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

96 SNIPE; 1 wild duck; 1 rail; 98 head.

Birds not numerous, but well distributed over the ground, and the shooting, though not fast, regular and steady.

1010 SNIPE killed to date.

1880, January 22d; Thursday; 14th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

100 SNIPE.

"300" Ground, 3. Reached Penn-Pasture at 11, getting 57 snipe there; Pellerin, 6; Dumesil, 34.

1201 SNIPE killed to date.

1880, January 24th; Saturday; 15th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

68 SNIPE; 1 teal; 69 head.

567 SNIPE killed in January; 6 days' shooting.

1269 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 42°.

1880, February 3d; Tuesday; 16th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

118 SNIPE.

Dumesnil, 3; Penn-Pasture, 99; Pellerin, 16.

1387 SNIPE killed to date.

1880, February 7th; Saturday; 17th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

128 SNIPE.

Penn-Pasture, 108; Sorrell, 20.

Sleeted when I was driving to the grounds.

N. E. wind; light rain at intervals during the day; very cold all day.

*1575 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 47°.

* 60 of these snipe killed on the 5th, when I shot part of the day.

1880, February 9th; Monday; 18th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

126 SNIPE.

Dumesnil all day; birds not numerous, but they kept coming back to the grounds; and the shooting, though not fast, was steady all day. The birds getting up regularly and not so much in wisps.

A very enjoyable day. Light rain nearly all day.

1701 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 50°.

21, Purdey Cylinder; 105, Purdey Choke.

1880, February 14th; Saturday; 20th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

102 SNIPE; 1 wild duck (Gadwall); 103 head.

Very few birds anywhere, except in Patout, where I found a great many and got 65 in 2¼ hours. Clear, bright, bracing day; a beautiful one both for shooting and walking.

1890 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 44°.

Duncan shot; his score not included above.

1880, February 28th; Saturday; 25th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

42 SNIPE; 1 wild duck (Gadwall); 43 head.

859 SNIPE killed in February; 10 days' shooting.

2128 SNIPE killed to date.

1880, March 2d; Monday; 26th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

49 SNIPE; 3 partridges; 52 head.

Very few birds indeed. I have never known so few to be here at this time of the year.

2177 SNIPE killed to date.

Nicholson Kane shot to-day; his score not included above. Nicholson Kane and his sister, Miss Kane, arrived on the 15th of February.

My daughter Maisie accompanied me from Europe last autumn, and has been at Oaklawn and the Snipery all winter.

1880, March 16th; Monday; 31st day;

CYPRE-MORT;

46 SNIPE.

Finished the season of 1879–80 to-day. A very bad one, especially the March shooting.

Fresh north wind blowing all day. Very cold.

306 SNIPE killed in March; 6 days' shooting.

Ther. sunrise, 46°; sunset, 48°.

The winter of 1879–80 was a very mild and a very dry one; unusually few birds.

The destruction of the higher grounds still fast progressing by being enclosed, drained, and put in cultivation; soon they will be entirely destroyed.

THIRTEENTH SEASON, 1879–80; 31 DAYS' SHOOTING.*

SNIPE.	Partridges.	Woodcock.	Hares.	Wild Duck.	Teal.	Rail.	Garde-Soleil.	Grouse.	Plover.	HEAD.	
2,434	8		4	6	2	8	2		4	2,468	31 days, 1879–80.
45,435	536	136	71	79	72	424	183	16	60	47,012	Killed previously.
47,869	544	136	75	85	74	432	185	16	64	49,480	To date, 434 days.

* 60 of them killed on part of a day, not numbered.

CHAPTER XVIII

EXTRACTS FROM THE "DAILY JOURNAL" OF THE GAME-BOOKS OF THE SNIPERY

FOURTEENTH SEASON, 1880–81

1880, October 28th; 1st day;

140 SNIPE; 1 plover (large Yellow-Leg, or Tell-Tale Tatler); 141 head.

Drove to Cypre-Mort in a light rain. Dumesnil 1; Penn-Pasture 139; reaching the latter ground at 11; finding many birds for so early in the season.

On the 25th of October, I went to Camperdown in the afternoon and killed 38 snipe and 3 large yellow-leg plover and 2 rail.

178 SNIPE killed in October; one day and part of a day.

1880, November 17th; Wednesday; 5th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

38 SNIPE; 4 garde-soleil; 42 head.

Dark cloudy day; moderate, steady rain from 8 A.M. till 12, when a heavy, steady rain set in till dark, flooding the grounds.

I began to shoot at 10, and stopped at 1.20, being thoroughly soaked through. I made two or three curious shots to-day. I killed a garde-soleil, and at the same shot a snipe, the latter getting up without my seeing him; the only one on the wing at the time.

I also killed two snipe overhead with one barrel, as they crossed each other, they being the only birds on the wing at the time. I think they were quite 70 yards high.

Again, on four birds getting up together wild, I killed one; the other three after flying around very high for some time pitched about 150 yards from where I killed the first; on approaching them, two getting up together, I killed one with each barrel, and the other getting up, only giving me time to put a cartridge in one barrel, I killed it at a long shot; thus getting all four of them.

493 SNIPE killed to date.

1880, November 26th; Friday; 9th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

66 SNIPE; 2 garde-soleil; 68 head.

Most rainy and inclement month of November I have ever experienced here, and the worst roads.

423 SNIPE killed in November; 7 days, and a part of 3 others.

665 SNIPE killed to date.

1880, December 20th; Monday; 17th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

56 SNIPE; 4 partridges; 2 ring-neck ducks; 1 rail; 63 head.

Very cold and cloudy all day. Much water everywhere.

Birds few and scattered, but lying well, I may say very well, for in a bit of ground in front of Victorin's I put up 16 birds, killing 13 as they rose, one after the other, several doubles among them; two birds rose wild, without giving me a shot at the first rise, but circled round and came back, and I killed them both, one with each barrel; the 16th going off unshot at, when my gun was empty. So I got 15 out of the 16.

1063 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 38° sunrise.
Ther. 38° sunset.

Purdey Choke. Jet and Shot.

The roads are worse than I have ever known them; it took me the other day two hours and forty-five minutes to drive a distance I generally do in one hour and five minutes.

4 partridges together weighed 26 ozs.

Two ring-neck ducks together weighed 54 ozs.

I left for New Orleans on the 3d of December and returned on the 6th.

1880, December 27th; Monday; 18th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

81 SNIPE; 1 teal; 82 head.

Too much water on the ground.

540 SNIPE killed in December; 10 days' shooting.

1262 SNIPE killed to date.

William Mason Smith, who arrived on the 24th, shot to-day; his score not included above.

Ther. 40°.

1881, January 10th; Monday; 21st day;

CAMPERDOWN;

80 SNIPE; 2 woodcock; 1 hare; 83 head.

Deep-Prairie, 11; Wood Ground and adjacent grounds, 69.

Much water everywhere, and birds not numerous.

I tried the Loggaman ground for woodcock, where I killed 24 on 11th of January, 1879; but though I worked the ground thoroughly, I did not put up a single bird; the two I killed were in some very thick briars near the Loggaman Snipe Ground.

Very cold all day. I did not begin on the snipe till after 12 o'clock.

1342 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 33°, sunrise. Ther. 36°, sunset.

I left for Torwood 28th of December and returned yesterday, January 9th.

1881, January 12th; Wednesday; 22d day;

CYPRE-MORT;

63 SNIPE; 1 rail; 64 head.

I to-day saw Setter Jet do what I saw him do on two occasions last season, but what I have never seen done by any other dog.

Three birds getting up, I killed one with each barrel, the third going off unshot at; Jet ran in to fetch one of the birds (a bad fault he has, having been taught to retrieve; a thing a dog, in my opinion, should never be allowed or taught to do,

especially a snipe dog, or in snipe-shooting). He picked one of the birds up, and was bringing it to me, when he came to a dead point, with the dead bird in his mouth, at the place from where the third bird had risen, thus proving that he pointed, with a bird in his mouth, by scent, and not by sight, as I thought he must have done.

1881, January 25th; Tuesday; 24th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

122 SNIPE; 5 partridges; 127 head.

Birds more abundant than I have seen them since the first day (28th of October) of the season, but unusually wild.

A heavy fall of snow on the 23d and 24th, the heaviest for years in these parts.

1624 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 29°.

Purdey Choke.

1881, January 27th; Thursday; 26th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

104 SNIPE; 1 garde-soleil; 105 head.

Purdey Choke. Jet.

1790 SNIPE killed to date.

The birds, which are as a rule here the finest and fattest snipe I have ever seen anywhere, are just now in worse condition than I have ever known them to be before. Probably owing to the long-continued spell of cold weather. Ther. 43°.

1881, January 31st; Monday; 28th day;
CAMPERDOWN;

48 SNIPE; 5 partridges; 53 head.
646 SNIPE in January; 8 days' shooting.
1908 SNIPE killed to date.

1881, February 2d; Wednesday; 29th day;
CAMPERDOWN;

36 SNIPE; 11 partridges; 1 rail; 48 head.

A great deal of water everywhere, and very few birds anywhere.

I flushed a covey of partridges, killing two at the first rise, and six afterward, all I put up, but smashed them awfully with the choke, which, though good for snipe, does not do for partridge-shooting.

I find they are preparing to fence and put in cultivation a good deal more of the Camperdown grounds, which will destroy almost all of them, curtailed as they have already been within the past few years.

1944 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 42°.
Purdey Choke. Jet.

1881, February 12th; Saturday; 32d day;
CAMPERDOWN;

91 SNIPE; 1 rail; 92 head.
2134 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 33°.
50,003 SNIPE killed to date from 2d December, 1867: 466 days' shooting.
Purdey Choke. Jet.

At the end of this day's shooting, I have killed on these Camperdown and Cypre-Mort Grounds, in the past fourteen seasons, including this, to date, 50,003 snipe, in 466 days' shooting, in addition to some *parts* of a few (not many) days. See Game-Book, vol. ii., page 40.

Williams shot; his score not included above.

Otho Williams, and Otho Williams, Jr., arrived on the 7th February.

1881, February 14th; Monday; 33d day;

CAMPERDOWN;

64 SNIPE; 3 partridges; 67 head.

2198 SNIPE killed to date.

50,067 SNIPE killed to date from December 2, 1867; 467 days' shooting.

1881, February 16th; Wednesday; 34th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

133 SNIPE; 1 hare; 2 rail; 136 head.

All day on the higher grounds of Cypre-Mort.

2331 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 47°.

Purdey Choke first; Purdey Cylinder latter part of the day.

1881, February 19th; Saturday; 36th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

111 SNIPE; 1 rail; 112 head.

The roads are still shocking, so bad as to be almost impassible; and I have great difficulty in getting to and from the grounds.

I can take no one in the wagon, and it is as much as a strong pair of horses can do to pull it with me alone. I got into a bog hole to-day which seemed bottomless, and the wagon was within an ace of being capsized.

2458 SNIPE killed to date.

1881, February 22d; Tuesday; 37th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

134 SNIPE.

Still too much water everywhere.

2592 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 37°.

Purdey Choke. Jet.

1881, February 24th; Thursday; 38th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

144 SNIPE; 1 rail; 4 plover; 149 head.

Dumesnil, 19; Patout, 2; Pellerin, 60 (chiefly on the far ridges); Penn-Pasture, 53; ground next Kemper wood, 5; Second Cypre-Mort, 5.

The lower grounds all submerged, and uplands very bare of cover, so that the birds, though very numerous, were very wild, and lying on the edge of the green where there was very little cover; got up wild and flew off.

Had the lower grounds been as fit as they usually are at this season, I would have made a great bag.

2736 SNIPE killed to date.

Purdey Choke.

1881, February 26th; Saturday; 39th day;

106 SNIPE; 1 hare; 107 head.

Dumesnil, 35; Patout, 4; Pellerin (chiefly on high ground), 43; Penn-Pasture, 24.

Light rain from 12 o'clock till 4, when there came on a tremendous downpour, which soaked me through as I drove home. I stopped shooting at 3.

2842 SNIPE killed to date.

Purdey Choke.

1881, March 5th; Saturday; 42d day;

CYPRE-MORT;

91 SNIPE; 1 plover (Papa-bôte or Bartramian sand-pipe); 1 rail; 93 head.

Birds very numerous, but lying on very bare ground where there was no cover, and getting up in wisps, and flying entirely away.

Indeed, for the past two weeks I have seen a great many birds, but they have not afforded much sport, for all the lower grounds, where there is any cover, and where they are usually to be found at this season, are deeply submerged by heavy rains; and the upper ones are so bare of cover that the birds on them are so wild as to be unapproachable.

Purdey Choke.

Killed a mink to-day.

Purdey Choke.

3101 SNIPE killed to date.

1881, March 19th; Saturday; 47th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

51 SNIPE; 1 partridge; 1 canvas-back duck; 1 garde-soleil; 1 plover (papa-bôte); 55 head.

Too late to shoot partridges, but a covey getting up wild (they not being paired), I killed a cock out of it.

The canvas-back duck is the only one I have ever seen on those grounds.

I finished the season of 1880-81 to-day; quite the wettest, and one of the coldest I have ever known here.

475 SNIPE in March.
3397 SNIPE killed to date.

I left for New Orleans and Torwood on 22d of March, and returned here on 2d of April.

On Monday, 4th of April, the weather being very cool and bracing, I went to Cypre-Mort and killed 60 snipe. The next day I tried Camperdown, and got 36; 8 blue-wing teal, and 1 grass plover or Papa-bôte.

The blue-wing teal, I killed on the Teche in front of the Snipery, for as I drove in the "Oaklawn" gate, I saw a plump of 12 at the edge of the water, and stalking them through a thicket of "Button-wood," I killed 8 of the 12 with one barrel; the Buttonwood bushes were so thick I could not get in my second barrel at the four survivors as they rose.

The mortality among the cattle was very great

this season. Owing to the cold and wet, great numbers of them (cattle and horses) were lying dead all over the prairie.

REVIEW OF THE SEASON

The summer of 1880 was very wet; October not very much so, but the rains began on the 27th of that month and the season from then out was the wettest I have ever known, and the swamps being filled with water, and the grounds having been saturated by the summer rains, the water went off more slowly than usual.

The higher grounds have been of late years so curtailed by fencing, etc., the progress of which I have alluded to in previous pages, that the cattle, horses, etc., being concentrated in a comparatively small area of the prairie, have kept the grass down so much as not to afford cover for the birds.

Consequently, when the lower grounds are submerged (as they were for the greater part of this season), they either did not resort to the upper grounds, or if they did, were so wild, owing to the sparseness of the cover, as to be almost unapproachable.

—I saw on the 21st of March immense numbers of Sandhill crane migrating, flying very high toward the northward; they passed directly over the Snipery; also large flocks of geese. They were passing for more than an hour in one continued stream.

FOURTEENTH SEASON, 1880–81; 47 DAYS' SHOOTING.*

SNIPE.	Partridge.	Woodcock.	Hares.	Wild Duck.	Teal.	Rail.	Garde-Soleil.	Grouse.	Plover.	HEAD.	
3,493	60	2	5	7	22	36	50		15	3,690	47 days. 1880-81.
47,869	544	136	75	85	74	432	185	16	64	49,480	Killed previously.
51,362	604	138	80	92	96	468	235	16	79	53,170	To date. 481 days.

*I had this season more broken days than usual, having killed on parts of days not numbered 261 snipe, which are included in the total (3,493) of this season's shooting.

"CARLO" POINTING—ON "THE THREE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-SIX GROUND"

CHAPTER XIX

EXTRACTS FROM THE "DAILY JOURNAL" OF THE GAME-BOOKS OF THE SNIPERY

FIFTEENTH SEASON, 1881–82

I ARRIVED at the Snipery on the 9th October, 1881.

The summer of 1881 was very hot and dry. Only light local showers in September and October, until the 23d of the latter month, when there was a heavy rain, which flooded all the grounds.

On the 1st of November, I drove over the Cypre-Mort grounds to have a look at them, when I saw only 17 snipe, 14 of which I killed.

1881, November 17th; Thursday; 3d day;
CYPRE-MORT;

108 SNIPE; 2 rail; 3 garde-soleil; 1 plover; 114 head. Dumesnil, 8; Penn-Pasture, 4; a plowed field of Louis Leon, 80; Calisse, 16. Much water everywhere.

I made to-day a very satisfactory double; three

snipe getting up together, two going to the right and one to the left, I killed the two right-hand birds with my first, and the left bird with my second barrel, they being the only birds on the wing at the time.

191 SNIPE killed to date.

1881, November 19th; Saturday; 4th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

75 SNIPE; 1 partridge; 2 rail; 1 garde-soleil; 79 head.

I to-day made three very satisfactory shots; five snipe getting up together, I killed two, one with each barrel. The other three flew off and after flying very high to a great distance returned, and were pitching down very fast from a great height to the place from where they rose, when I fired and killed all three at one shot, thus getting all five with three shots; they being the only birds on the wing at the time.

266 SNIPE killed to date.

1881; November 21st; Monday; 5th day;
CAMPERDOWN;

125 SNIPE; 1 wild duck; 2 rail; 128 head.

Cloudy, dark day; east wind.

Birds lying pretty well in spite of the weather.

When I stopped at 3.30 it began to rain and rained all the evening very steadily.

I saw several wisps flying high, as if fresh birds were coming in.

391 SNIPE killed to date.

Purdey Cylinder. Ther. 53°.

TEAL BAYOU

1881, November 28th; Monday; 6th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

171 SNIPE; 1 hare; 1 rail; 3 garde-soleil; 176 head.

First Cypre-Mort, 27; Patout, 26; Louis Leon and Calisse, 31; Second Cypre-Mort and adjoining grounds, 87.

Birds more abundant than they have been previously this season, lying a great deal in the fields. There is too much water everywhere.

590 SNIPE killed in November; 6 days' shooting.

590 SNIPE killed to date.

28 of these birds killed on Wednesday, 23d, when I went to Cypre-Mort to try a young dog, but finding the grounds too submerged, I only shot for one and a half hours.

I went to New Orleans on the 24th and returned on the evening of the 27th.

Christopher Hampton arrived this evening.

Ther. 42°.

1881, December 1st; Thursday; 7th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

163 SNIPE; 1 shoveller; 1 Widgeon, or Bald Pate; 2 rail; 6 garde-soleil; 1 plover (Tell-Tale-Tattler); 174 head.

Not so many birds on the grounds as I left there on Monday, but lying so well that I gave a good account of them, killing a very large proportion of those I saw.

753 SNIPE killed to date.

1881, December 3d; Saturday; 8th day;
CAMPERDOWN;

181 SNIPE; 1 wild duck (wring-neck); 12 garde-soleil; 194 head.

Shot chiefly on deep ground of prairie, and sedge grass near Lacey Pond.

934 SNIPE killed to date.

Purdey Cylinder first, Purdey Choke last part of the day. Ther. 57°.

1881, December 5th; Monday; 9th day;
CAMPERDOWN;

123 SNIPE; 2 rail; 2 garde-soleil; 127 head.

Shot very much the same ground as yesterday, supplemented by a cornfield.

I killed a very large proportion of the birds I saw to-day, as they laid very well. I left so few birds on this ground that I do not think it worth shooting until fresh birds come in.

1057 SNIPE killed to date.

In driving through Ranlett's field to-day, on my return, I saw a large catamount which Ranlett had just killed near where his hands were cutting cane.

1881, December 7th; Wednesday; 10th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

118 SNIPE; 3 rail; 1 garde-soleil; 122 head.

Three birds getting up together to-day, I killed two with the first and the other with the second barrel.

1175 SNIPE killed to date.

Purdey Choke first, Purdey Cylinder last part of the day. Ther. 62°.

1881, December 22d; Thursday; 12th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

123 SNIPE.

About 90 in the Deep-Prairie. The rest in old Joseph's cornfield, formerly Cottonwood-Tree-Ground.

1387 SNIPE killed to date.

I left for Charleston on the 10th of December and returned here on the 20th.

1881, December 23d; Friday; 13th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

100 SNIPE; 1 partridge; 1 wild duck (Mallard); 1 rail; 1 garde-soleil; 104 head.

Birds not numerous, and I made the bag of 100 with great difficulty.

897 SNIPE killed in December; 7 days' shooting.

1487 SNIPE killed to date.

1882, February 11th; Saturday; 26th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

110 SNIPE.

Dumesnil, 25; Second Cypre-Mort, 9; Penn-Pasture, 76.

The shooting for some time past has been so bad that since the 23d of December the bags have not been worth recording here.

While shooting on the 6th of January, three

green wing teal coming overhead and flying very fast and high, I fired my right barrel at the leading bird, and without waiting to see the effect of my shot I fired at the second and hit it very hard, so that it fell, slanting, dead. While watching it to mark where it would fall, something struck my foot very violently, which proved to be the first bird falling dead; it hit me very hard, as it was going at a great pace, and fell from a great height.

On the 28th of January I shot a partridge, hitting it very hard, and it flew straight for a picket fence, striking it with great force, and falling dead. Whether it died from the shot or from the blow of striking the fence I do not know.

My son Duncan, who had been shooting with me since the 29th of January, left on the 7th of February, and I accompanied him to New Orleans and returned here on the 9th.

2320 SNIPE killed to date.

I left for Torwood on 26th December and returned on 5th January.

1882, February 18th; Saturday; 30th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

107 SNIPE.

Killed most of the birds on the Deep-Prairie and plowed ground.

Purdey Choke. Snap. Ther. 66°.

1882, February 23d; Thursday; 31st day;
CAMPERDOWN;

153 SNIPE; 1 hare; 154 head.

Birds abundant. Killed about half on the plowed ground; the rest in the Deep-Prairie.

Clear, bright day; N. W. wind. Walking very hard, as it was entirely in the plow and Deep-Prairie. Killed a raccoon.

Began shooting at 10.30 and by 1.45, when I stopped for lunch, I had 91 birds.

I have seldom seen so many snipe borings as I saw on the ground to-day; more than could be accounted for by the number of birds I saw.

I think large flights must have stopped here lately on their northward migration.

2836 SNIPE killed to date.

Purdey Cylinder.

I went to New Orleans on Sunday, 19th, and returned last evening.

1882, March 2d; Thursday; 34th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

50 SNIPE.

Birds very scarce. Grounds flooded from heavy rains of the 25th, 26th, and 28th February.

2962 SNIPE killed to date.

Purdey Cylinder. Snap. Ther. 51°.

Charles Tilghman shot; his score not included above.

Dr. and Mrs. Charles Tilghman and Mary Porter arrived on the 27th of February.

1882, March 6th; Monday; 35th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

65 SNIPE; 2 partridges; 67 head.

Spring very much advanced. Altogether, I think, the season, vegetation, etc., is quite three weeks earlier than usual.

3027 SNIPE killed to date.

To-day the dog pointed and 3 snipe got up, and just as they all got together, I fired, knocking all three down; one recovering after falling, and getting up much crippled, I killed it with my second barrel. The only 3 birds on the wing at the time.

Mrs. Oliver Beirne arrived on the 5th.

1882, March 15th; Wednesday; 38th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

83 SNIPE.

Birds more abundant than they have been for some time past.

Still too much water everywhere.

3166 SNIPE killed to date.

Purdey Choke.

Dr. and Mrs. Charles Tilghman left yesterday.

Tilghman has been shooting with me for the past two weeks; but unfortunately I have been able to show him very poor sport; for the birds have been less abundant than I have ever known them to be in March; and the March shooting this season has been worse than ever before.

1882, March 29th; Wednesday; 39th and last day;
CYPRE-MORT;

72 SNIPE; 1 Papa-bôte; 73 head.

I returned from Torwood yesterday, and though very late in the season, the weather being very cool to-day, I went to Cypre-Mort, expecting to find very few birds, the spring being an unusually early one.

I found, however, more than I expected. I killed a very large proportion of those I saw, indeed, nearly all, as the weeds and grasses were so grown up that the cover was very thick, and the birds laid uncommonly close, enabling me to give a good account of them.

The blue iris was in full bloom, presenting a most beautiful appearance. A waving sea of blue it looked as it was blown about by the wind.

Purdey Cylinder. Snap.

3238 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 45°.

The season of 1881–82 was a bad one, for though I got a total of 3238 snipe, the average number of each day was a low one.

I shot 39 days and part of several others.

The winter was a very mild one, and rainy, almost as rainy as the last.

With so much rain as this and the last season, the shooting a few years ago would have been magnificent, for there was then a large area of upland prairie with excellent cover to which the birds would have resorted when the lower marshes were too deeply submerged, which they have generally been this and the last season.

Of late what upland prairies are left unenclosed and uncultivated, with the exception of Penn-Pasture, are so bare of cover, that when the birds were found there they were unapproachable.

In Penn-Pasture, on the contrary, the cover is too thick this season, owing to the few cattle on it, many having been killed off last winter by the cold and inclement weather; the weeds and grass are therefore too rank and thick on the high grounds of the pasture.

FIFTEENTH SEASON, 1881–82; 39 DAYS' SHOOTING. *

SNIPE.	Partridges.	Woodcock.	Hares.	Wild Duck.	Teal.	Rail.	Garde-Soleil.	Grouse.	Plover.	HEAD.	
3,238	66		2	6	11	25	58		3	3,409	39 days, 1881–82.
51,362	604	138	80	92	96	468	235	16	79	53,170	Killed previously.
54,600	670	138	82	98	107	493	293	16	82	56,579	To date. 520 days.

* 154 Snipe killed this season on unnumbered days; included in the 3238 snipe recorded above.

LIVE OAKS ON THE HIGH GROUNDS OF PELLERIN

CHAPTER XX

EXTRACTS FROM THE "DAILY JOURNAL" OF THE GAME-BOOKS OF THE SNIPERY

SIXTEENTH SEASON, 1882–83

ON the 4th of November, I drove to Cypre-Mort and inspected all the grounds, which I found very hard and dry, water only in the deepest holes, and moisture only in lowest grounds.

I only saw 12 snipe, all of which I killed. Also killed 3 green and 2 blue wing teal, and 4 garde-soleil. I did not shoot regularly, only picked up the above as I drove over the grounds inspecting them.

On the 8th November I again made an inspection of Cypre-Mort. No rain since I was there on the 4th. Killed 10 snipe; 6 partridges; 15 green wing; 1 blue wing teal; 11 garde-soleil; 2 poule d'eau; 1 rail; and 2 very large hawks.

The snipe have evidently not yet arrived, or if they have come so far south, not finding any ground fit or any food, they have passed on.

I brought out with me from London this autumn a New Purdey Hammerless gun, Witworth steel barrels, 12 guage, weighing 6 lbs., 10 ozs.

1882, November 14th; Tuesday; 1st day;

CYPRE-MORT;

44 SNIPE; 1 rail; 1 garde-soleil; 46 head.

I made a short day, stopping at 1.30, by which time I had used up all the birds, for I only saw 47; but they laid well, and I gave a good account of them.

One of the hawks I killed to-day was a very large one (Goshawk, I think) nearly white, the back flecked with brown and a few brown spots on the breast, legs heavily feathered, white to the knees.

I made a long shot, breaking his wing, and on my taking him up incautiously to give him the *coup de grace*, he struck his talons very deep on the inside of both my thighs, and I had great difficulty in extricating myself.

66 SNIPE killed to date.

1882, November 23d; Saturday; 3d day;

CYPRE-MORT;

69 SNIPE; 1 teal; 70 head.

While shooting Patout to-day I saw 2 deer (a doe and fawn) run across the marsh from the wood on the Dumesnil line and go into the deep marsh.

193 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 48°.

1882, November 28th; Tuesday; 5th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

90 SNIPE; 1 wild duck (Mallard); 6 teal (4 green wing and 2 blue wing); 97 head.

337 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 44°.

Capt. Joseph Haskell arrived on Sunday.

I killed yesterday the largest moccasin I have ever seen; an instance of the mildness and backwardness of the season; for I seldom come across snakes in the autumn. I shot off his head, and it is curious that as soon as it was killed it collapsed and became much smaller in girth than when alive.

Could it have been that it was about striking me (for I came near stepping on it) and had so swollen itself up?

1882, November 30th; Thursday; 6th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

92 SNIPE.

Patout deep ground, 76; Penn-Pasture deep ground, 16.

I saw two large wisps flying about, as if fresh birds were coming in.

429 SNIPE killed in November.

429 SNIPE killed to date.

—Purdey Hammerless Choke.

1882, December 2d; Saturday; 7th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

100 SNIPE.

Patout deep ground, 69; Penn-Pasture deep ground, 13; Far Pellerin deep ground, 18.

I have never seen the ground so dry at this season.

I shot entirely in the deep grounds, which are at this time of the year usually submerged. I have not killed a single bird on any of the grounds where as a rule, at this season, I do all my shooting.

Very few ducks on account of the scarcity of water.

529 SNIPE to date.

Purdey Hammerless Choke. Ther. 42°.

1882, December 13th; Wednesday; 12th day;

CYPRE-MORT.

34 SNIPE; 1 rail; 1 garde-soleil; 36 head.

I saw a great many ducks, also geese and swans, going to the southward, which I think portends a change of weather.

810 SNIPE killed to date.

Purdey Hammerless Choke.

Gen. Mexia, of Mexico, who arrived yesterday, shot to-day; his score not included above.

1883, March 3d; Saturday; 37th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

87 SNIPE; 2 wild duck; 1 rail; 90 head.

I have been shooting very steadily since the last day recorded, 13th Dec., 12th day, but my bags have not been worth mentioning here, though they are all recorded in the Game-Book.

Since the 13th of December I have had several

friends staying with me. The Misses Porter, at various times Christopher Hampton and Otho Williams, and my son Duncan, who have been shooting with me.

Nothing occured out of the usual routine worth recording.

One day, while Duncan and I were shooting Penn-Pasture, as we sat in the wagon at luncheon, we saw a Bald Eagle pursue and capture a duck (Pintail). He was in hot pursuit of him, having singled him out of a flock. They were both flying low; the eagle with a steady, persistent flight.

We had a very good view of the chase, as they flew over the marsh not very far from us, then turned and doubled back and doubled back again, the eagle finally wearing it down and catching it fairly in the air.

I have not had 100 snipe in a day this season since the 2d December. An unprecedented low series of scores. My best bags have been recently; 82 snipe on the 24th February; 83 on 26th February.

485 SNIPE in February; 11 days' shooting. The smallest number and the lowest average of any February. 85 snipe, 1st March, and to-day 87, as above.

—I killed to-day one of the largest red tailed hawks ("Falco Borealis" of Audubon) I have ever seen; commonly called hen hawk, or fowl hawk. It measured 52 inches from tip to tip of wings, and 22½ inches from tip of beak to end of tail.

2086 SNIPE killed to date.

1883, March 12th; Monday; 39th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

102 SNIPE; 2 partridges; 1 green wing teal; 4 rail; 1 plover (Papa-bôte); 110 head.

Dumesnil, 10; Calisse, 11; Penn-Pasture, 44; Second Cypre-Mort, 15; Francois, 19; Penn-Meadows, 3.

Birds more abundant than they have been for some time.

2362 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 48°.

Purdey Hammerless Choke. Jet.

1883, March 17th; Saturday; 41st and last day;
CYPRE-MORT;

72 SNIPE.

Dumesnil, 55; Calisse, 1; Penn-Pasture, 12; Francois, 4.

I saw several large wisps; but they got up wild and cleared out; they are evidently congregating in wisps for migration.

They rose very wild and went off altogether.

The worst season I have ever had here, barring the first.

607 SNIPE killed in March.

The latter part of the summer of 1882 and the autumn were very dry. After the middle of December the grounds were wet enough, but they had become so baked and hardened by the dry summer and autumn, that they were not soft enough to be fit the whole season.

Besides the 41 days numbered, I shot parts of 4 days for a short time, killing on them 75 snipe, which are included in the 2521. Of the numbered days there are several on which I also shot only for a short time.

Servants of the Snipery, 1882–83: Henry, Lunnon, John Mathews, Arthur, Dolly, Victorine, Annette.

Horses: Kitty, Sally, Lady Miles, Shotover, Reserve, Penny.

Dogs: Jet and Snap.

I shot the greater part of the season with Purdey Hammerless Choke guns.

SIXTEENTH SEASON, 1882–83; 41 DAYS' SHOOTING.

SNIPE.	Partridges.	Woodcock.	Hares.	Wild Duck.	Teal.	Rail.	Garde-Soleil.	Grouse.	Plover.	HEAD.	
2,521	55		3	26	58	43	26		1	2,733	41 days, 1882–83.
54,600	670	138	82	98	107	493	293	16	82	56,579	Killed previously.
57,121	725	138	85	124	165	536	319	16	83	59,312	To date, 561 days.

CHAPTER XXI

EXTRACTS FROM THE "DAILY JOURNAL" OF THE GAME-BOOKS OF THE SNIPERY

SEVENTEENTH SEASON, 1883–84

I ARRIVED at the Snipery on 1st November, 1883.

The summer of 1883 was wet to July; after that a great drought.

Wells all dry; a few showers toward the end of October, but not enough to do any good to the grounds, which are drier than I have ever known them, except in the autumn of 1876,—and as dry as then.

On 6th of November I drove all over the Cypre-Mort grounds, and did not see a single snipe. No water in deepest part of the marsh; coulées all dry.

On 6th November, I went to Cow Island Marsh, a sea marsh I have never shot before.

There was a small burn, very fit as regards moisture, which held a few snipe, but there were so few, and the mosquitoes so bad, that after killing seven

THE LOW GROUNDS OF PELLERIN

snipe and one mallard, I gave it up. This is the first time I have ever been to Cow Island.

On the 7th I tried it again, getting 11 snipe, nearly all I saw.

Heavy rain on the 11th of November, with much wind.

1883, November 12th; Monday; 1st day;

COW ISLAND MARSH (sea marsh);

68 SNIPE.

Only shot from 11 o'clock till 2.30; few birds; killed nearly all I saw.

This is the first day I have ever shot the Sea Marsh regularly.

Shooting there not nearly so satisfactory as on the inland, fresh-water marshes and meadows.

Mosquitoes, of which, as a rule, there are none on the inland marshes, very bad, and walking hard; and I do not think the birds are so good to eat.

86 SNIPE killed to date.

1883, November 16th; Friday; 3d day;

CYPRE-MORT;

38 SNIPE; 1 wild duck; 1 shoveller; 40 head.

Birds very scarce, but lying well. I killed nearly all I saw.

I have never walked over so much ground, and found so few birds, but the weather, though cold and raw, was so fine and bracing, the marshes so hard underfoot and good for walking, though bad

for shooting, and I was in such fine fettle, that I persevered longer than I would have done under other circumstances.

I made to-day a very long shot, killing a snipe, *dead*, at 71 yards, accurately stepped off, with my left barrel full choked.

I also made a very satisfactory double ; three snipe getting up together, I killed one with my first barrel, and the other two I knocked down with my second, though one of the latter recovered and flew a short distance, and I had to shoot it again ; they being the only birds on the wing at the time.

210 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. sunrise, 36°; sunset, 45°.

Purdey Hammerless Choke. Killed 2 raccoons.

1883, November 19th ; Monday ; 4th day ;

SEA MARSH, COW ISLAND AND BAKER ISLAND.

70 SNIPE.

Shot Baker Island, which is separated from Cow Island by a wide bayou or creek, for the first time to-day.

Birds quite abundant on a small burn.

This Baker Island is a very good marsh, but very inaccessible. To reach it, I have to walk across Cow Island and take a boat at an oak tree, on the latter island, which I cannot always count on finding there, or go a long way round by boat.

It takes three hours either way to get to the ground. So taking six hours, going and coming, it does not leave much time for shooting.

A curious thing happened to-day. I had just killed two snipe, one with each barrel, when a buck jumped out of a small patch of tall grass, within 30 yards of me; my gun was empty, but I would not have shot at it anyhow, as I could not have killed it with No. 9 shot.

Strange it should have remained so long in its hiding-place, as I had been shooting very fast, near and all around it, for some time.

I saw to-day at Cow Island bridge two large otters just killed by one of the Myers.

280 SNIPE killed to date.

1883, December 18th; Tuesday; 12th day;
CAMPERDOWN;

71 SNIPE.

On shooting Camperdown to-day, for the first time this season, I find fences (chiefly barbed wire) run all through the grounds; the lower ones of which have been planted (last spring) in rice; ditches running all through them. Indeed, those grounds are almost entirely ruined.

861 SNIPE killed to date.

I shot Cow Island and other sea marshes for the last time on December 11th, having got altogether there 377 snipe.

Not pleasant grounds to shoot over; hard walking; many mosquitoes, which, as a rule, are not on the inland marshes; and very inaccessible and hard to get about on; the birds flying from one island to another, where it is impossible to follow them.

I left for Torwood on 4th December and returned on 9th.

1883, December 19th; Wednesday; 13th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

80 SNIPE

Penn-Pasture, 42; Patout, 3; Pellerin, 8; Dumesnil, 27.

Grounds too hard.

Purdey Hammerless Choke.

941 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 48°.

I find since I last shot Penn-Pasture, that they have laid off a track for a railway through the middle of it, to go from Baldwin Station on the Southern Pacific Road to a point on Cypre-Mort Bayou. This will greatly injure the snipe grounds of Penn-Pasture.

1883, December 21st; Friday; 14th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

77 SNIPE; 3 partridges; 1 hare; 81 head.

Dumesnil, 28; Pellerin, 2; Penn-Pasture, 47. Foggy all day; I have never seen, since I have been shooting these grounds, so heavy and persistent a fog; it was so thick as almost to amount to a rain; the light very bad and the horizon so obscured that at times, to a certain extent, I lost my way, and could not beat the ground regularly. Birds of course very wild, though I saw a good many.

1018 SNIPE killed to date.

1883, December 29th; Saturday; 18th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

75 SNIPE; 4 partridges; 1 green wing teal; 2 garde-soleil; 82 head.

Dark, cloudy day, with sprinkling of rain for a little while.

831 SNIPE killed in December; 11 days' shooting.

1325 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 49°.

Purdey Hammerless Choke.

1884, January 2d; Wednesday; 20th day;

CAMPERDOWN;

61 SNIPE.

Birds nowhere except in Joseph's Field. Shot only from 11 to 3; very cold day; ther. sunrise, 23°; sunset, 31°; 9 P.M., 24°; I have seldom shot on two such consecutively cold days.

1449 SNIPE killed to date.

Purdey Hammerless Choke.

I to-day made a satisfactory double; three snipe getting up, I killed two crossing with my first, the third with my second barrel, they being the only three birds on the wing at the time.

1884, January 12th; Saturday; 23d day;

CYPRE-MORT;

43 SNIPE; 1 woodcock; 44 head.

Only saw one woodcock in a small wood in Penn-Pasture near the "snake" ground.

I met Penn and his sons, who gave me 8 wood-

cock they had killed in a wood back of Pellerin, but as they said there were only a few there, I did not try for them.

1666 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 30°.

Duncan shot; his score not included above.

Christopher Hampton arrived on the 4th; my son Duncan on the 10th, and Stephen Duncan on the 11th.

1884, January 16th; Wednesday; 24th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

41 SNIPE.

Very cold northeast wind, and light rain till about 1 o'clock, when there came on a steady one which lasted the rest of the day.

Killed most of the birds by 1 o'clock, and stopped shooting at 3, as the birds became so wild as to be unapproachable.

Got very wet; extremely cold all day.

1702 SNIPE killed to date.

Purdey Hammerless Choke.

Duncan here, but did not shoot.

Duncan killed day before yesterday, in the "Murphy Wood," in the rear of the Snipery, 4 woodcock, and yesterday on the same ground, 15; he also killed on the 11th, on the same ground, 4.

He only went out once with me on the snipe ground, and he got altogether 23 woodcock, 23 snipe, and 2 garde-soleil; very good considering what a scarcity of birds there was, and how little he shot.

1884, January 26th; Saturday; 25th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

64 SNIPE; 3 partridges; 67 head.

Penn-Meadows, 9; Second Cypre-Mort, 2; Penn-Pasture, 53.

I tried Penn-Meadows for the first time this season, but only put up 12 birds there, 9 of which I killed.

1771 SNIPE killed to date.

Purdey Hammerless Choke.

I went to New Orleans on the 17th of January, with my son Duncan and Stephen Duncan, and returned here day before yesterday.

1884, January 31st; Thursday; 27th day;
CAMPERDOWN;

55 SNIPE; 6 partridges; 1 teal; 62 head.

586 SNIPE killed in January; 9 days' shooting.

1911 SNIPE killed to date.

The destruction of the Camperdown grounds still progressing.

I saw to-day a lot of plows, plowing all the sedge lands between the Lacey Pond and Deep-Prairie, and preparations being made to fence it.

After the destruction of this ground, the only part of the Camperdown grounds that will be left will be the Deep-Prairie, and that will be so fenced around that, the cattle not having access to it, it will so grow up in weeds that the snipe will not resort to it.

1884, February 9th; Saturday; 33d day;
CYPRE-MORT;

43 SNIPE; 1 partridge; 2 wild duck (pintail); 2 plover; 48 head.

Smashed the wagon to-day and lost two hours of the best part of the day repairing damages, and stopping at 3 o'clock, made a short day of it.

An unusual double to-day. A snipe and pintail getting up together, I killed the snipe with my first and the pintail with my second barrel. I made just the same double on Monday last, the 4th.

To-day I came across an alligator in the marsh of Far-Pellerin and captured him by lassoing him. Tied up his mouth and legs, and brought him home alive. It was rather difficult to get the lasso over his head, for though only 4½ feet long he was very fierce and showed great fight.

2181 SNIPE killed to date.

Duncan, who arrived here on the 3d and has been shooting with me, left yesterday.

Mary Porter and Miss Hunt arrived on the 5th.

1884, February 14th; Thursday; 35th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

102 SNIPE; 3 partridges; 105 head.

Penn-Pasture, 99; Penn-Meadows, 3.

Many more birds than I found day before yesterday, when I only got 34 in Penn-Pasture, and 48 altogether.

Dark, cloudy day, and fresh north wind, blowing cold. The setter Moscow, though a strong, high-couraged dog, suffered so much from the cold as to be quite useless, and after the first half-hour I had to put him in the wagon, which he did not leave again.

I too suffered very much from the cold, the more so from being very wet.

1083 SNIPE killed in February; 16 days' shooting.

2331 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 39°, sunrise.
Ther. 37°, sunset.

60,023 SNIPE killed to the 27th February, 1884, from the 2d December 1867; 603 days' shooting.

1884, March 1st; Saturday; 44th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

155 SNIPE; 4 partridges; 1 green wing teal; 1 plover; 161 head.

Penn-Pasture, 99; Pellerin, 35; Dumesnil, 21.

Birds more abundant than any day this season. Clear, bright day; fresh northwest wind. A very enjoyable day.

I killed to-day a "Red-breasted" snipe, the only one I have ever seen on these grounds. (Not counted as a snipe.)

3149 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 34°.

When shooting on the 16th February, 35th day, I killed a snipe (though not stone dead) at 81 yards, carefully stepped off, with the Purdey full Choke.

Also on that day, while shooting Penn-Pasture, I found on that ground a snake's egg.

1884, March 3d; Monday; 45th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

112 SNIPE; 4 Esquimaux Curlew; 116 head.

Penn-Pasture, 65; Dumesnil, 19; Pellerin, 14; Patout, 14.

I saw to-day, for the first time this season in any numbers, blue wing teal (Sarcelle printanière, as they are called in Louisiana) migrating northward.

This bird which I killed to-day, I call Esquimaux Curlew, as it answers exactly in every respect to the description Audubon gives of the Esquimaux Curlew. I have never seen one before.

It is a very handsome bird, very game looking, beautifully marked and colored; the back, a brownish black, with numerous spots of bright golden yellow, like those of the golden plover; belly light yellow, much the same shade of yellow as the American woodcock; wings very long, acute, and narrow. Audubon (vol. vi., page 45) says:

"It passes in spring from Texas along the coast, rarely seen in the winter; breeds in the northern, barren grounds, and in the far countries.

"How this species manages to cross the whole of the United States without being seen, after leaving Massachusetts, is to me very wonderful; on one occasion only, have I had a glimpse of it; . . . they feed on grasshoppers and several kinds of berries."

I saw a flock of eight in Patout, which were very wild, but I killed one of them at a long shot, in the

morning. In the afternoon, I came suddenly on the seven survivors, and got two with the first and one with the second barrel.

3261 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 47°.

Purdey Hammerless Choke. Moscow.

1884, March 6th; Thursday; 46th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

131 SNIPE.

Penn-Pasture, 102; Pellerin, 15; Dumesnil, 14.

I saw to-day, for the first time this season, a flock of golden plover.

I killed to-day a very large red-tailed hawk, measuring from tip to tip 55 inches, from end of beak to end of tail 24 inches.

3437 SNIPE killed to date.

1884, March 8th; Saturday; 47th day;

CYPRE-MORT.

105 SNIPE.

Penn-Pasture, 82; Pellerin, 10; Dumesnil, 13.

Blue iris growing very fast, but not yet in bloom. In 1882 I saw some in bloom on the 13th of February, so this is a backward spring.

I killed, to-day, flying very fast and low, just skimming over the top of the marsh, a "sharp-shinned" or "slate-colored" hawk; a rare bird—as far as my experience goes—in these parts. It is a small hawk, only measuring 21 inches across the wings.

Saw Papa-bôte for the first time this season.

A large force of convict laborers came up on the 3d and began work on the Cypre-Mort Branch Railway from Baldwin. This railway will run through the middle of Penn-Pasture, cutting that good snipe ground in half, and injuring it very much.

3542 SNIPE killed to date.

1884, March 11th; Tuesday; 48th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

111 SNIPE; 1 partridge; 1 plover; 113 head.

Penn- asture, 75; Pellerin, 31; Dumesnil, 5.

Found fewer birds than I did on Saturday; they are evidently migrating. I gave a good account of them, killing a large proportion of those I saw.

3653 SNIPE killed to date.

1884, March 15th; 49th and last day of the season;

CYPRE-MORT;

81 SNIPE; 8 blue wing teal; 89 head.

Penn-Pasture, 67; Pellerin, 8; Patout, 6.

Birds wild and in diminished numbers.

Blue iris very high; not yet in bloom.

I this day finished the season of 1883–84, which ended much better than it began.

740 SNIPE killed in March; 6 days' shooting.

Ther. 40°.

The summer of 1883 was very dry, consequently at the beginning of the season the grounds were very

hard, and I could find no birds anywhere, except on Cow, Baker, and Doe Island sea marshes, where I shot entirely until the rains set in.

The first heavy rain was on November 11th; after that frequent and heavy ones throughout the season; but the grounds were so hard, it took a long time to soften them and put them in good order.

Winter rather mild till January, when the weather became very cold and continued so throughout that month.

The coldest January I have ever known here. Backward spring, though the first half of February was unusually warm.

SEVENTEENTH SEASON, 1883–84; 49 DAYS' SHOOTING.*

SNIPE.	Partridges.	Woodcock.	Hares.	Wild Duck.	Teal.	Rail.	Garde-Soleil.	Grouse.	Plover.	HEAD.	
3,734	83	1	3	7	17	16	16		8	3,885	49 days, 1883–84.
57,121	725	138	85	124	165	537	320	16	83	59,314	Killed previously.
60,855	808	139	88	131	182	553	336	16	91	63,199	To date. 610 days.

*I killed 328 snipe on broken, unnumbered days, which are included in the season's total.

CHAPTER XXII

EXTRACTS FROM THE "DAILY JOURNAL" OF THE GAME-BOOKS OF THE SNIPERY

EIGHTEENTH SEASON, 1884–85

1884, December 16th; Thursday; 1st day;

CYPRE-MORT;

40 SNIPE.

Birds very scarce; much water everywhere from recent heavy rains, but the grounds hard owing to the great drought which prevailed last summer.

I killed to-day a very large red-tailed hawk, which I came across on the ground in the act of eating a full-grown hen, which it had just killed. It was still warm, as he had just killed it.

Ther. 40°.

I arrived at the Snipery on Saturday, 13th; unusually late, having stayed in England for the cover shooting with my friend Bradley Martin at Balmacann, Invernesshire, Scotland, a beautiful place, and good, extensive, and varied shooting,—Deer Forest;

THE HIGH GROUNDS OF PENN-PASTURE

Grouse Moor, and cover shooting; where we had capital sport.

I also shot in September last with my friend Heeren, at Sinzheim, Iffetzheim, etc., near Baden Baden, where we also had excellent sport; chiefly partridge shooting at that season.

I went to New Orleans on 28th December and returned Thursday, 1st of January.

1885, January 3d; Saturday; 3d day;

CYPRE-MORT;

118 SNIPE.

Penn-Pasture, 112; Baudin Pasture (to north of Penn-Pasture), 6.

199 SNIPE killed to date.

I killed a pigeon-hawk on 27th December and to-day a large goshawk.

1885, February 2d; Monday; 9th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

121 SNIPE; 1 pintail duck; 122 head.

Penn-Pasture, 94; Dumesnil, 20; Calisse, 7.

728 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 46°.

I left for New Orleans and Torwood on 10th January and returned here on the 20th January.

1885, February 4th; Wednesday; 10th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

122 SNIPE.

Dumesnil, 20; Patout, 2; Calisse, 7; Penn-Pasture, 93.

Birds not numerous, but lying well; bright day and west wind.

850 SNIPE killed to date.

I left for New Orleans yesterday at 7.30 A.M., arriving there at 11.30 A.M.; left there at 7.30 P.M., and arrived here at 11.30 P.M.; a forced march.

1885, February 7th; Saturday; 11th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

117 SNIPE; 1 partridge; 118 head.

Dumesnil, 25; Patout, 17; Calisse, 9; Penn-Pasture, 66.

967 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 47°.

Lynch Pringle arrived on the 5th.

1885, February 9th; Monday; 12th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

115 SNIPE.

Dumesnil, 33; Patout, 7; Calisse, 3; Penn-Pasture, 72.

Birds lying well. Light rain with a strong southwest wind when I left the Snipery; but the wind came out from the northwest before I reached the ground and blew cold all day; and it cleared off beautifully.

I have seldom killed so many birds over points as I did to-day.

1082 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 7 A.M. 68°.
Ther. 8 P.M. 43°.

The temperature fell rapidly after the wind came out from the northwest.

1885, February 11th; Wednesday; 13th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

141 SNIPE; 3 partridges; 144 head.

Dumesnil, 43; Patout, 17; Calisse, 9; Penn-Pasture, 72.

Cold northeast wind; dark, cloudy day and light very bad.

Birds more abundant than I have found them this season, but wild.

A little sleet about two o'clock; bitterly cold all day.

In my wet clothes, I felt the cold much, and I had to walk very fast to keep moderately warm.

Altogether a hard day as regards the weather, but a very enjoyable one in spite of it.

Very cold driving to and from the ground.

1223 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 28°.

Purdey Hammerless Choke.

1885, February 13th; Friday; 14th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

129 SNIPE; 3 partridges; 132 head.

Penn-Pasture, 103, where I began; Calisse, 7; Patout, 5; Dumesnil, 14.

Light rain early in the morning, which stopped soon after I began to shoot. Northeast wind; cold, raw, and light very bad.

It felt and looked like snowing, all day.

1352 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. sunrise, 40°.
Ther. 8 P. M., 41°.

I to-day made rather a curious shot. Three or four snipe getting up not very near each other, I fired at the nearest, which fell dead, and I saw another fall quite dead 15 yards ahead of the one I had fired at. I did not see the farthest bird until I saw the splash of the water where it fell. It had crossed the line of the first bird at the moment of my firing, and I got them both.

A similar shot was made on these grounds by the late Doctor George Kingsley, author of *South Sea Bubbles*, by the "Earl and the Doctor," who, with Lord Dunraven, was at the Snipery in February, 1873.

Writing to the *London Field* on the subject of "Two Snipe at a shot," Kingsley, who wrote to the *Field* over the signature of the "Doctor," says:

"I could not help killing two snipe at a shot; down on the Bayou Teche. It was really not my fault, the first bird was quite far enough for me, the second was fool enough to pass just behind him as I fired. If he had been a little quicker, he would have given me a nice left-hand shot, but we cannot be always exactly what we should be. I think I sent you some time ago an extract from Mr. Pringle's Game-book on the Bayou Teche. It was out and away the best sniping I have ever seen anywhere, in every way. Old as I am, I would go there again if I had a chance."

1885, February 16th; Monday; 15th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

140 SNIPE; 1 partridge; 141 head.

Penn-Pasture, 101; Calisse, 13; Patout, 10; Dumesnil, 16.

Clear, bright day; light northwest wind, veering to the southwest.

Birds not so numerous as on Friday and somewhat wilder, owing, perhaps, to there being more water on the ground from a heavy rain yesterday.

1492 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 28°.

1885, February 20th; Friday; 17th day;

CYPRE-MORT; BAYOU COCHON;

119 SNIPE; 3 partridges; 122 head.

Sea, or brackish, marsh, near Bayou Cochon, back of Cypre-Mort Bayou.

This ground I have never shot before, as it is rather out of reach from the Snipery, being about 26 miles off.

The grounds are very extensive. I only shot that part which had been burned off, as the birds only resort to that portion of it. Where there is no burn, the grass is quite too high.

Great numbers of birds, more than I have seen for many seasons, but wild as hawks, as there was a great deal of water and practically no cover.

Had they not been so wild, and had I had more time to shoot, I would probably have killed 300 or

more, for there were quite birds enough for such a bag; but it was a long distance from the Snipery, quite 26 miles over bad roads, and I had to walk a long way over very heavy ground from where I left the wagon to where the birds were.

So I did not begin till 11 and only shot between four and five hours, having to knock off early, as I had a long drive home.

The walking too was awful, the ground very rotten and boggy and full of muskrat holes and runs.

1678 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 42°.

Duncan shot; his score not included above.

Lynch Pringle arrived on the 17th, and he and Duncan shot with me on the 18th.

1885, February 25th; Wednesday; 19th day;

CYPRE-MORT AND BAYOU COCHON;

72 SNIPE.

Bayou Cochon, 17; Penn-Pasture, 34; Calisse, 3; Potout, 5; Dumesnil, 13; drove to Bayou Cochon near Free Town, but found so much water on the marsh from rain of yesterday, and so few birds, that I gave it up there, and drove to Penn-Pasture, which I reached at 2; shooting Patout and Dumesnil on the way home, after getting 34 in Penn-Pasture.

1811 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 42°.

Duncan shot but only for a short time, as he fell in going through a wood to the Bayou Cochon marsh and got a large splinter in his face, and had to go 2 or 3 miles to a doctor to have it extracted.

Otho Williams, Senior, and Otho Williams, Junior, arrived on the 22d and shot on the 23d with Duncan and myself.

To-day I saw a pigeon-hawk catch a snipe on the wing, after a very short chase; the snipe I think was wounded, for on two snipe getting up and crossing each other, I killed one and wounded the other. I think the cripple, though only slightly crippled, was the one the hawk caught.

1885, February 27th; Friday; 20th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

54 SNIPE; 1 partridge; 55 head.

I made to-day a rather unusual double,—a snipe with the first, and a partridge with the second barrel.

1258 SNIPE in February; 12 days' shooting.

1865 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 40°.

Williams and Duncan shot to-day till luncheon; their score not included above.

1885, March 2d; Monday; 21st day;
CYPRE-MORT—BAYOU COCHON;

120 SNIPE.

I shot Bayou Cochon to-day from 11 till 4. A good many birds but very wild, owing to there being much water and very little cover. I think also to there being very little wind; for it is likely that the birds heard me walking on the thick, stiff stubble of the burnt grass, for they were all lying on the burns, as they always do on the sea or brackish marshes.

1985 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 41°.

Purdey Hammerless Choke.

1885, March 11th; Wednesday; 24th day;

CYPRE-MORT—BAYOU COCHON;

145 SNIPE.

All on Bayou Cochon, where they were very abundant, but getting up in large wisps as wild as hawks, especially the first and last part of the day.

I made the greater part of the bag (105) between 10.30 and 1 o'clock.

Having driven the wisps out of the lower grounds, where, owing to the quantity of water and the sparseness of the cover, they were very wild and where the walking was almost impossible, I got them scattered on the higher and harder grounds (comparatively harder, for they were all pretty low and boggy), where they laid better.

The drive to and from the grounds being so long,—going and coming, about 52 miles,—I had a short day for shooting.

2224 SNIPE killed to date.

Duncan, who has been with me shooting for some time past, left for New York on the 9th; I accompanied him as far as New Orleans and returned here yesterday.

1885, March 18th; Wednesday; 27th and last day;

CYPRE-MORT;

58 SNIPE; 3 rail; 2 plover; 63 head.

Very few birds. They are evidently fast leaving. Blue iris very tall and rank, so that all the lower

grounds are quite unfit, as the birds will not resort to them in their present condition.

538 SNIPE killed in March; 7 days' shooting.

2403 SNIPE killed to date.

I this day finished the season of 1884–85. A short one, as I only begun on the 16th December, and a bad one, as there were not many birds, except in February, when they were fairly abundant.

A cold winter and an average rainfall. Owing to the dry summer of 1884, the snipe grounds were very hard and continued so all the season; consequently the birds resorted to the sea marshes, where there were extensive burns.

Since these brackish marshes have been extensively burned, which of late years has been done more generally than formerly, after a dry summer the birds resort to them in great numbers; in a measure deserting the inland marshes for them.

Snipe are very fond of ground where the grass and herbage have been burned off. These marshes seldom freeze and seldom, if ever, get baked and hard, as the lower parts of them are periodically more or less overflowed by the tide-water.

The Bayou Cochon marshes are much better to shoot over than those of Cow, Doe, and Baker Islands, as they are not so much intersected by impassable creeks or bayous, which make it impossible to follow up the birds on the latter.

Penn left Penn-Pasture on the 5th March, 1885, where he has been living since the summer of 1875.

and removed to the Penn Plantation, near his old quarters, between the Penn-Sloughs (now Lagrave place) and the Penn-Meadows.

EIGHTEENTH SEASON, 1884–85 ; 27 DAYS' SHOOTING.*

SNIPE.	Partridges.	Woodcock.	Hares.	Wild Duck.	Teal.	Rail.	Garde-Soleil.	Grouse.	Plover.	HEAD.	
2,403	46			1	4	2			4	2,460	27 days. 1884–85.
60,855	808	139	88	131	182	543	336	16	91	63,189	Killed previously.
63,258	854	139	88	132	186	545	336	16	95	65,649	To date. 637 days.

* 76 Snipe killed on broken days, not numbered, included in the 2403 snipe this season.

THE LOW GROUNDS OF PENN-PASTURE.

CHAPTER XXIII

EXTRACTS FROM THE "DAILY JOURNAL" OF THE GAME-BOOKS OF THE SNIPERY

NINETEENTH SEASON, 1885–86

1885, November 7th; Saturday; 1st day;

CYPRE-MORT;

33 SNIPE; 1 partridge; 1 hare; 2 green wing teal; 37 head.

I arrived at the Snipery from Europe on the 27th of October.

The summer of 1885 was rainy in the latter part of July, in August, and for the first week in September. Subsequently very dry.

I found the grounds dry and hard, as has been the case for several years past. Cover good. The first rain since the first week in September was on the 5th of November.

Had out for the first time to-day white setter bitch Rose, which promises well; very well broken.

1885, November 18th; Wednesday; 6th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

57 SNIPE; 1 wild duck; 1 blue wing teal; 1 rail; 60 head.

Birds very scarce. Killed a raccoon to-day. I also killed a raccoon on the 13th of November.

The blue iris is unusually tall and advanced in growth for this time of the year, when, as a rule, it is comparatively low, as it generally dies down in early summer, as soon as its bloom is over, and does not begin to grow tall until early in the following spring.

I fear its unusually early growth will injure the winter shooting.

283 SNIPE killed to date.

1885, November 25th; Wednesday; 9th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

135 SNIPE; 1 partridge; 1 wild duck; 1 garde-soleil; 138 head.

Killed a large proportion of the birds I saw; grounds still very hard, and upper ones very dry.

547 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 42°.

1885, November 30th; Monday; 11th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

76 SNIPE; 1 partridge; 1 merganser; 3 rail; 81 head.

Dumesnil, 9; Patout, 3; Calisse, 9; Penn-Pasture, 55.

I saw many robins to-day; the first time I have observed them this season.

714 SNIPE killed in November; 11 days' shooting.

770 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 40°.

1885, December 2d; Wednesday; 12th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

97 SNIPE; 1 wild duck (Mallard); 1 rail; 99 head.

Clear, bright day; north wind; birds lying well.

I killed to-day two large hawks; one of them got up out of some sedge grass with a dead snipe in his talons which I had killed fifteen or twenty minutes before—a long double, which I had not been able to find, as it fell in some thick cover. The snipe was quite uninjured by the hawk, as he had not yet begun to eat it, there being only a few feathers picked off from its back.

811 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 32°.

1885, December 4th; Friday; 13th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

129 SNIPE; 1 partridge; 1 rail; 1 garde-soleil; 132 head.

I killed a large red-tailed hawk to-day, measuring 48½ inches across wings; not so large as that I killed on the 3d of March, 1883, which measured 52 inches across the wings. Also killed a raccoon to-day.

940 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 53°.

1885, December 9th; Wednesday; 14th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

103 SNIPE; 2 partridges; 2 wild duck (duck and mallard); 107 head.

Dumesnil, 11; Patout, 4; Calisse, 6; Penn-Pasture, 82.

Northwest wind; clear, bright day; birds lying well, though not numerous.

1085 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 56°.

Killed a large red-tailed hawk; also a raccoon.

I went to New Orleans on the 6th and returned on the 7th.

1885, December 12th; Saturday; 16th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

115 SNIPE; 1 green wing teal; 1 garde-soleil; 117 head.

First part of the day east wind and clear, latter part very dark and cloudy. Wind shifting to the south and blowing hard, with a sprinkle of rain at intervals.

1279 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 44°.

1885, December 14th; Monday; 17th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

79 SNIPE; 2 mergansers; 81 head.

Very cold all day.

1358 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 28°, sunrise; 36°, 7 P.M.

Killed a large hawk.

1885, December 31st; Thursday; 23d day;

CYPRE-MORT;

40 SNIPE; 1 partridge; 2 rail; 43 head.

1035 SNIPE killed in December. 12 days' shooting.

1749 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 37°.

Duncan shot; his score not included above.

Stephen Duncan and Duncan arrived on the 23d of December.

I have killed several large hawks lately; on the 19th a large one, and on the 21st another.

The months of November and December, of this season, have been the driest I have ever known here.

The upper grounds having been quite too dry and hard, my shooting has been confined to the lower ones of Dumesnil, Patout, Calisse and Penn-Pasture; on which I have killed to my own gun 1749 snipe, besides those killed by Duncan, who has been shooting with me for some days past.

I left for Torwood on the 6th of January and returned here on the 14th.

1886, January 27th; Wednesday; 27th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

85 SNIPE; 2 rail; 87 head.

Killed a large proportion of the birds I saw.

317 SNIPE killed in January.

1987 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 44°, sunrise; 40°, 7 P.M.

Very cold weather for these parts prevailed in this month. On the 9th of January, thermometer, sun-

rise, 12°; on 10th, 18°; on 11th, 19°; on 12th, 24°; on 13th, 30°.

The cold spell probably brought in a good many woodcock, but not having been here when it prevailed, I did not have a shy at them.

Duncan, who has been here for some time, shooting with me, left yesterday, the 26th.

1886, February 1st; Monday; 29th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

112 SNIPE; 1 hare; 113 head.
Patout, 14; Calisse, 6; Penn-Pasture, 92.
Clear, bright day. Light east wind.
2178 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 40°.

1886, February 5th; Friday; 30th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

71 SNIPE; 7 partridges; 1 hare; 1 rail; 80 head.
Birds extremely wild, as there was no wind; a calm, still day, and they seemed to hear me a great way off; very cold morning, ice ⅓ of an inch thick; so thick that my shins were much bruised and a little cut by it through my stockings.

A very severe spell of weather for these parts since the morning of the 3d.
2287 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 26°.

1886, February 12th; Friday; 34th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

98 SNIPE; 4 partridges; 1 hare; 103 head.
2571 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 34°.

1886, February 15th; Monday; 35th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

86 SNIPE; 8 partridges; 94 head.

Birds not numerous, but lying very well. Bright, clear, bracing day; very fresh north wind.

I made a satisfactory double to-day; Rose pointing, three birds got up, two of which I killed with my first, and one with my second barrel; they being the only birds on the wing at the time.

2657 SNIPE killed to date.

Willows putting out. Early, considering how cold the weather has been since the 4th of January.

1886, February 17th; Wednesday; 36th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

87 SNIPE; 2 partridges; 2 hares; 2 plover; 93 head.

2744 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 45°.

Killed a raccoon to-day.

1886, February 19th; Friday; 37th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

88 SNIPE; 2 partridges; 1 hare; 91 head.

A great diminution to-day in the number of ducks, which have been on the marshes in great numbers all this season.

There was also to-day a great decrease in the number of snipe; for I went over much ground that was very fit, seeing scarcely any birds. At 2 o'clock I had only killed 5.

I doubt if the shooting will be good until a fresh flight comes in, for I have shot the grounds very hard lately.

2832 SNIPE killed to date.

1886, February 22d; Monday; 38th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

70 SNIPE; 3 partridges; 2 hares; 1 wild duck; 1 green wing teal; 77 head.

I put this bird down as a wild duck, though I think it is a species of Grebe or kind of diver. Having no Audubon here now, I cannot exactly identify it.

I was walking up to a snipe I had marked down near the Killdeer Coolie, when there came down, suddenly, from overhead, this bird with a great splash in the water.

2902 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 48°.

1886, February 24th; Wednesday; 39th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

89 SNIPE; 8 partridges; 1 wild duck; 1 widgeon or bald pate; 2 green wing teal; 101 head.

I made a very lucky long shot at the wild duck. On entering Dumesnil, 3 ducks got up wild. They were at such a distance that, at first, I thought I would not shoot at them; but a quick second thought decided me to, and I fired, bringing one down with a broken wing. I did not step the distance, as I generally do with an unusually long

shot; but I should say it was quite 80 yards, a long distance for No. 9 shot, but it was chilled, and broke the wing bone.

I also had at the end of the day an unusual and satisfactory double. I was about knocking off and was going to the wagon, which was standing by the Killdeer Coolie, when I saw two green wing teal and a snipe coming toward me. I dropped on my knee, but as they approached, the teal saw me and turned off to the right; I fired, catching them as they crossed, and killed both with my first barrel, and the snipe, which had turned to the left, with my second. The latter was so high and going so fast that, falling on a ridge of hard ground at the edge of the coolie, the feathers and skin were stripped off from one side of its breast.

2991 SNIPE killed to date.

1886, February 26th; Friday; 40th day;
CYPRE-MORT.

122 SNIPE; 7 partridges; 1 hare; 1 wild duck (shoveller), 2 green wing teal; 133 head.

Dumesnil, 9; Patout, 4; Calisse, 1; Prevost, 14; Penn-Pasture, 94.

1047 SNIPE in February; 12 days' shooting;

3113 SNIPE killed to date.

1886, March 2d; Tuesday; 41st day;
CYPRE-MORT.

150 SNIPE; 1 partridge; 1 hare; 5 green wing teal; 157 head.

Dumesnil, 7; Patout, 7; Calisse, 8; Prevost, 16; Penn-Pasture, 112.

Dark, cloudy day, light very bad, especially in the afternoon.

3263 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 52°.

Lynch Hamilton arrived on the 27th of February.

1886, March 17th; Wednesday; 48th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

62 SNIPE; 3 partridges; 2 hares; 67 head.

Birds in greatly reduced numbers; so much so that I shall not shoot again this season.

I killed to-day a very large proportion of those I saw.

The season is backward; for there are still some robins here which generally leave before the snipe. Partridges still in covies, not yet paired—nor have the doves.

I saw to-day the first bloom of the blue iris. All signs of a very backward spring.

I do not think (the spring being so backward) that all the snipe have yet migrated, but probably what birds are still here are on the burnt grounds of the sea marshes.

I saw to-day large numbers of golden plover.

I killed to-day a very large hawk, which I saw watching a covey of partridges, and then took 3 birds out of the covey he had been watching.

The average of snipe killed each day this season was not good, but the total was, considering the great curtailment of the grounds by cultivation.

NINETEENTH SEASON, 1885–86; 48 DAYS' SHOOTING.*

SNIPE.	Partridges.	Woodcock.	Hares.	Wild Duck.	Teal.	Rail.	Garde-Soleil.	Grouse.	Plover.	HEAD.	
3,744	117		17	28	22	38	15		8	3,989	Season 1885–86.
63,258	854	139	88	132	186	545	336	16	95	65,649	Killed previously.
67,002	971	139	105	160	208	583	351	16	103	69,638	To date. 685 days.

*150 snipe killed on "broken," unnumbered days; included in the 3744 snipe above.

CHAPTER XXIV

EXTRACTS FROM THE "DAILY JOURNAL" OF THE GAME-BOOKS OF THE SNIPERY

TWENTIETH SEASON, 1886-87

1886, November 10th; Wednesday; 1st day;

CYPRE-MORT;

91 SNIPE; 3 garde-soleil; 94 head.

Patout, 42 chiefly on the deep ground; Calisse, 12; Penn-Pasture, 21; Dumesnil, 16.

Marshes very dry, except the deep ones, which were submerged by the waters from the gulf, in a great gale which occured about the middle of September. Had it not been for this overflow, the lower grounds would have been, like the upper ones, dry and hard.

The autumns have been very dry and the grounds unfit from the 15th season, 1881–82, to this, inclusive.

Purdey hammerless choke. Ther. 68°.

THE HIGH GROUNDS OF CALISSE

1886, November 13th; Saturday; 2d day;

CYPRE-MORT;

90 SNIPE; 1 merganser; 3 rail; 1 garde-soleil; 95 head.
I have seen to date uncommonly few birds.
181 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 42°.

1886, November 15th; Monday; 3d day;

90 SNIPE; 1 green wing teal; 1 garde-soleil; 92 head.
271 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 48°.

1886, November 18th; Thursday; 4th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

94 SNIPE; 1 wild duck; 2 rail; 1 garde-soleil; 1 plover; 99 head.
365 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 29°.

1886, November 20th; Saturday; 5th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

101 SNIPE; 1 rail; 2 garde-soleil; 104 head.
Dumesnil, 32; Patout, 11; Calisse, 3; Penn-Pasture, 55.
Cloudy all day, with occasional showers.
466 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 51°.

1886, November 22d; Monday; 6th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

133 SNIPE; 2 garde-soleil; 135 head.
Dumesnil, 5; Patout, 20; Calisse, 9; Penn-Pasture, 99.

Birds generally lying well; fresh S. E. wind, with very heavy wind clouds; walking hard, as the birds were lying in the deep grounds.

599 SNIPE killed to date.

1886, November 27th; Saturday; 8th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

91 SNIPE; 2 rail; 1 garde-soleil; 2 plover; 96 head.

Dumesnil, 19; Patout, 17; Calisse, 5; Penn-Pasture, 50.

Birds few, and scattered through the deep grounds. Walking hard.

I have, owing to the destruction of so many of the grounds, shot the same grounds so closely and so steadily, leaving so few birds at the end of each day's shooting, that I have been, from day to day, expecting the shooting to break down entirely, but to my surprise, I find fresh birds day after day.

I killed to-day, and indeed have killed every day since the beginning of this season, a very large proportion of the birds I have seen.

804 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 40°.

1886, November 29th; Monday; 9th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

78 SNIPE; 1 teal; 1 rail; 3 garde-soleil; 83 head.

Dumesnil, 7; Patout, 17, Calisse, 3; Penn-Pasture, 51.

882 SNIPE in November; 9 days' shooting.

882 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 42°.

1886, December 6th; Monday; 11th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

81 SNIPE; 4 rail; 85 head.

Shooting still confined entirely to the deep grounds. I have never known, at this date (6th Dec.), the grounds generally so dry; only the deep ones being fit.

1050 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 24°.

On Saturday, the 4th, I drove to Cypre-Mort in a light cold rain, which by the time I reached Dumesnil had become a steady, moderate one.

I got soaked through and so cold that, though the rain stopped, a strong Norther blowing with heavy wind clouds, I knocked off at 12 o'clock, two hours after I began, with 36 snipe. I was so wet and cold myself, and my man Cæsar, and the dogs also, so wet and cold as to be useless, that I did not think it worth persisting, especially as the birds were few and scattered.

The wind was so strong and cold, that what birds there were seemed unwilling to face it, and rose reluctantly, and I observed what I have never remarked, to such an extent, before, that often when I had marked birds down, they rose a long distance from where I had marked them, having run (even where there was a good deal of water), in their unwillingness to rise and face the wind.

What with the cold and wet, I have seldom had so rough a day. The thermometer was 42°, sunrise; 32°, 4 P.M.; 29°, 7 P.M.

1886, December 8th; Wednesday; 12th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

78 SNIPE; 1 hare; 2 garde-soleil; 81 head.
1128 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 42°.

1886, December 10th; Friday; 13th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

74 SNIPE.
Dumesnil, Patout, and Penn-Pasture.
1202 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 48°.
Killed a raccoon to-day. Saw a good-sized alligator to-day in Penn-Pasture. Cold weather for him to be out.

1886, December 14th; Tuesday; 14th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

83 SNIPE; 1 partridge; 1 dusky duck; 85 head.
Birds more abundant than they have been for some time, but lying in the deepest grounds of Penn-Pasture (the south marsh), where the walking was very hard, almost impossible.
The dusky duck was the only one of its kind I have ever seen on these grounds, though I think they are not uncommon in Louisiana.
1285 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 35°.
Duncan, who arrived on the 13th (yesterday), shot to-day. His score not included above.

1886, December 24th; Friday; 18th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

52 SNIPE; 1 partridge; 1 rail; 54 head.

Birds few, and all lying in the deep ground. I made a singular shot to-day. A snipe getting up, I killed it at about 35 yards, and as I fired, I saw another bird fall some distance off. After picking up the dead bird, I walked in the line of shot, and found another dead snipe 19 yards from the first one. I did not see it until it was falling. It must have crossed the line of shot at the very moment I fired. The only two birds on the wing at the time.

This has happened to me before, but only once I think.

1486 SNIPE killed to date.

Duncan has been shooting with me for some time past, every day until to-day.

Stephen Duncan arrived on the 20th, and Stephen Duncan, Jr., arrived on the 24th.

1887, January 10th; Monday; 20th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

36 SNIPE.

Very cold north wind. More water on the ground than there has been this season from the rain yesterday morning, though not enough to flood the lower grounds and drive the birds out of them.

I shot only for a short time, as there were so few birds I did not think it worth keeping the servants, horses, and dogs out in the cold.

1584 SNIPE killed to date. Ther. 25°.

I left for Torwood on 30th of December and returned here on 7th of January. Duncan and Stephen Duncan, Jr., shot Cypre on the 27th December.

1887, February 1st; Tuesday; 23d day;

CYPRE-MORT;

26 SNIPE; 2 partridges; 2 pintail duck; 30 head.

No rain since 9th of January. I have never, since I have been shooting these grounds, known so small a rainfall up to the 1st of February.

While shooting on 26th of January (a broken day), I fired a long shot at two pintail, killing one; the other flew off apparently unhurt; but Rose, ranging wide, pointed, and on walking to her the other pintail got up wild, but badly crippled. I marked it down in the green, where there was no water, and got to within ten yards of where I had marked it, when I saw it squatting in the grass, and killed it as it rose.

1805 SNIPE killed to date.

1887, February 24th; Thursday; 24th day;

CYPRE-MORT;

60 SNIPE; 3 partridges; 63 head.

I have not had a "day's shooting" since the 1st of February, though I have shot for a short time on parts of five days, never finding birds enough to afford a "day's shooting."

I have never seen the spring so advanced as it is at this date.

The blue iris has grown so tall that the lower grounds are quite unfit, and the birds will not resort to them.

Altogether it has been an exceptional season; incomparably the smallest rainfall I have ever known up to this date.

The weather since the 1st of February has been unseasonably warm.

I found to-day that the rain of the 21st brought up great quantities of beautiful mushrooms all over the snipe grounds. There were many, even on the low grounds, growing among the blue iris.

I gathered a great many, and could have gathered many bushels.

1955 SNIPE killed to date.

Duncan, who arrived on the 13th of December shot with me till the 8th of February, when he left.

1887, February 25th; Friday; 25th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

47 SNIPE; 2 partridges; 49 head.

2002 SNIPE killed to date.

1887, March 9th; Wednesday; 26th day;
CYPRE-MORT;

47 SNIPE; 9 partridges; 1 wild duck; 57 head.

I finished to-day the season of 1886-87, and the 20th season of my shooting these grounds, about the worst I have ever had on them.

I had more broken or unnumbered days than in any previous season. And even on the numbered days, the birds were generally so few as not to afford a day's shooting, and often on those days I only looked into the likeliest places, and, after killing what birds I found, did not think it worth persisting.

I think one reason for the scarcity of birds was probably owing to a bad nesting season in the northern regions where they breed, for I saw by the papers that the spring in those parts was very cold and inclement. Another was that the snipe grounds within reach of me are so curtailed by drainage and cultivation that comparatively little ground was left for the birds.

For instance, on the Camperdown grounds, on which I killed, in 1869-70, 2383 snipe in 22 days, and in 1871-72, 2427 in 21 days, I only killed in 1884-85, 23; in 1885-86, 13; and this season *none*.

TWENTIETH SEASON, 1886–87; 26 DAYS' SHOOTING.*

SNIPE.	Partridge.	Woodcock.	Hares.	Wild Duck.	Teal.	Rail.	Garde-Soleil.	Grouse.	Plover.	HEAD.	
2,085	65		2	8	15	25	18		3	2,221	Season 1886-87.
67,002	971	139	105	160	208	583	351	16	103	69,638	Killed previously.
69,087	1036	139	107	168	223	608	369	16	106	71,859	To date, 711 days.

* 281 Snipe killed on the broken, unnumbered days, included in the 2085 snipe above.

COULÉE ON CALISSE

CHAPTER XXV

THE END OF THE GOOD SHOOTING—FINAL DESTRUCTION OF THE SNIPE GROUNDS—MY LAST SNIPE.

THE preceding season of 1886–87 was the last of the series of "Twenty Seasons" and the last good one I had—though it cannot be called "good," for, with the exception of the first season, 1867–68 (which was practically not a full season, for I began late, and, as a rule, did not shoot regularly, and when I did shoot, it was under great disadvantages), it was the worst I had, the number of snipe being 1441 under the average (3536) of the previous nineteen seasons.

The diminished number of the birds, and the falling off of the shooting, and its final complete annihilation on the grounds within reach of the Snipery, were due to various causes.

The diminution of the birds, and the breaking down of the shooting locally, was due to the enclosing and draining of the snipe grounds, both upper

and lower, the latter being drained by machinery; to the introduction of breech-loaders, with one of which I estimate that, under the same conditions, at least 7 or 8 more birds can be killed than with a muzzle-loader (and soon after their introduction they were sold at such a low price as to bring them within the reach of every one); also to the extension of railways, which brought within reach of markets, market gunners, and gunners of all sorts, grounds which were previously inaccessible to them.

Though the grounds I shot over were to the end almost entirely unintruded upon by shooters of every kind, the neighboring ones, sea-marshes, etc., were much infested by them, and the snipe on those neighboring grounds, from which the supply of birds on my grounds was renewed, after I had shot them pretty hard, were either killed off or driven away.

This was the case all over the South, and the destruction of birds, from the same causes, at the North and Northwest, was as great, probably greater, as the snipe migrating, as they do, twice a year, spring and autumn, through the whole length and breadth of the continent, were killed in great numbers by the cheap breech-loaders, on the grounds brought within reach of markets and gunners by the railways.

So that really there were not so many snipe in the world at the end of the "Twenty Years" as at the beginning.

And this diminution in numbers was not confined to snipe alone, but to all kinds of game.

On my first visit to the Attakapas, before the war, and when I first established the Snipery, it was not only the best snipe country I ever knew, but altogether one of the best sporting countries, for besides the great number of snipe, there were many partridges, wild ducks, geese, and wild fowl of different varieties.

For the first twenty years, in shooting snipe, I generally saw every day on the marshes great flocks of ducks, and though, as a rule, I never went for them, only shooting the few that came in my way, it was interesting to see them flying about, and they gave animation to the wild and marshy landscape.

Latterly they quite disappeared, and I seldom saw any.

However, making the Snipery my headquarters during the winters I spent in Louisiana to look after my plantations, I continued the shooting in spite of the gradual destruction of the snipe grounds and the decrease in the number of birds.

And though the birds were much less abundant than in previous years, and I made no more big bags, there were enough of them to afford fairly good sport, and I enjoyed the shooting to the last.

The destruction of the snipe grounds, beginning chiefly in 1875–76, went steadily on.

I killed no birds on "Jennerett" and "Kilgour" after 1870–71.

In 1875, the De la Grave plantation was established on First Cypre-Mort, and from that date all of First

Cypre-Mort and the Penn-Sloughs were gradually enclosed and put under tillage.

Beginning in 1883–84, the "Penn-Meadows," "Bitot," "Emil Pete," "The 300 Ground," and all that range of country, which used to afford such capital shooting in wet weather, were by degrees put in cultivation and eventually destroyed as shooting grounds.

In 1889–90, Patout, formerly Baudin, was drained by a draining machine and put under cultivation. In 1891–92, the best part of Pellerin and Calisse, and about the same time Dumesnil, were drained and cultivated.

In the summer of 1895 the north side of Penn-Pasture, latterly Patout-Pasture, was ploughed and the following spring put into cultivation.

This was the most fatal blow to the shooting, for take it all in all, it was the best and most reliable snipe ground within reach of the Snipery, and in later years my chief dependence. It consisted of a large extent of flat marsh (the flat marshes are better than the steep or deeper ones) adjoining a large area of deeper ones, to which the birds resorted in dry weather. It was the perfection of a snipe ground.

It was here that I made my record bag of 366 snipe on the 11th of December, 1877, and the next day I shot it, the 13th, I killed 271; on both occasions shooting it all day and pursuing the birds from one part of it to another.

So all their feeding grounds having been ruthlessly

destroyed, the snipe abandoned the country, and I, having sold most of my landed property in Louisiana, followed their example.

In the last season, the shooting dwindled away to nothing, and I only shot in a desultory sort of way.

The last birds I killed were almost at the door of the Snipery.

I had shot my last day on Cypre-Mort on the 9th of March, having only seen 13 birds, 11 of which I killed; and had fired as I thought, my last shot at snipe.

When going toward the stable, on the afternoon of the 15th, I saw some snipe borings in a low place in the Snipery pasture, about 80 yards from the house. I called to my man Arthur to bring a gun and a few cartridges, and a snipe getting up, I killed it. At the report of the gun, three more got up wild, which I marked down in an adjoining field, and in going to them, I killed another.

On getting to the three birds marked down, they got up wild, there being no cover, and I made a handsome double, killing one with each barrel; the third bird I marked down in a low place, put it up, and killed it, thus getting all 5, and winding up my shooting career with 5 very satisfactory shots, for they were all long and difficult ones.

CHAPTER XXVI

EXTRACTS FROM THE "DAILY JOURNAL" OF THE GAME-BOOKS OF THE SNIPERY.—MY BEST SEASONS AFTER 1886–87.—NOTES AND MEMORANDA OF SHOOTING.—TOTAL OF SHOOTING ON THE CAMPERDOWN AND CYPRE-MORT GROUNDS

I QUOTE from my Game-books the following memoranda and notes of the shooting after 1886–87. My best seasons' totals after that season were as follows: 1887–88, 1659 snipe; 1888–89, 1589 snipe; 1890–91, 1717 snipe; 1893–94, 1243 snipe.

1888, February 21st.

To-day I was surprised to see three or four snipe running on the ground, showing great unwillingness to rise. Three of them getting up, I killed one with each barrel, the third going off when my gun was empty. While watching it to mark down, I heard overhead a great rushing sound, and saw a very large, game-looking falcon swoop down at it with a tremendous rush. He missed it however, for the snipe dropped like lightning in the grass, and Rose

pointing it, I killed it. The presence of the falcon accounted for the snipe lying so close.

1888, February 18th.

Shooting Penn-Pasture to-day, I killed a large "Cotton Mouth moccasin," and the shot cutting it open, I discovered in its belly another snake which it had swallowed. Digestion had not long commenced, for the skin of the swallowed snake was only a little eaten away.

The "Cotton Mouth" was 30 inches long, and thick in proportion to its length.

The swallowed snake, another species of water snake, was $28\frac{1}{2}$ inches long; it was swallowed head foremost, and being only $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches shorter than its swallower, was bent where it had been forced to the end of the cavity of the larger snake's stomach.

1889, February 18th.

Made a satisfactory double to-day,—a snipe with the first and a partridge with the second barrel.

I also to-day, shooting at 5 blue wing teal, killed 3 with my first and 1 with my second barrel, only 1 escaping.

One day I killed a large hawk with a frog in his talons; on another day, one with a "boat-tail-crackle."

The season of 1889–90 was a total failure, owing to an unprecedented drought which prevailed in the summer of 1889, and which continued all through the following winter.

Only a few light rains, not enough to do any good, until the 14th March.

Practically I had no shooting, and did not kill a single snipe on the inland marshes. I killed a few (102 in all) in some desultory shooting on the sea marshes; but owing to the great drought, these marshes were too salt, and the birds did not resort to them.

I have come to the conclusion that snipe will not frequent salt or brackish marshes, unless they have been somewhat sweetened by a certain amount of rain.

There being no shooting, I went in for alligators; for the marshes being so dry, their holes or dens, which are generally covered by water when there is the usual rainfall, were exposed and accessible.

I went out armed with an iron rod about 12 ft. long, with a hook at one end; this rod poked into the alligator's hole would stir him up and irritate him, and he would bite the hook and be hauled out.

On the 25th of January, I captured three: one 3½ ft. long; one 5 ft. 8 in.; and one 5 ft. 11 in.

On another occasion, I captured five or six, the largest 9 ft. 6 in. But I omitted the particulars in my game-book, and only make this latter entry from an old memorandum book.

On the 6th of February, I went for alligators again, but finding a lot of terrapins (sliders), sometimes called "Striped Heads" or "Yellow Bellies" (a fresh-water species) in two or three alligators' holes

on Teal Bayou, I captured 33; very fat and in fine condition. They are a great delicacy; not as good as "Diamond backs," but a very fair substitute for them when well cooked.

There was an alligator in one of the holes, but it was crooked and I could not capture him.

1891: I killed a rare hawk, but having no copy of Audubon here just now, I cannot identify him.

I have killed a great many hawks of different varieties on these grounds, only some of which I have enumerated. I always kill them when I can, for they are very destructive to game and poultry. They are very shy and difficult to approach, and had I to do the shooting over, I think I would always take out a light rifle for them.

On 2d of December, 1892, I marked 4 snipe down, and on approaching them, two got up, which I killed, one with each barrel. I had just time to load when the other two rose, and I killed both with one barrel, thus getting the four with three shots.

February 8th: three snipe getting up together; one going to the right and the other two to the left, I killed the right-hand bird with the first, and the two others with the second barrel; they being the only birds on the wing at the time. To-day in Penn-Pasture, Carlo pointed, and then jumped back. I found it was an alligator, which had snapped at him, and I lassoed and took him home alive. Though only 4½ ft. long, it was very fierce and fought savagely.

February 10th: four partridges getting up to-day on Calisse, I marked one down in the grass under a live oak tree; the other three flying *into* the tree. On putting up the one on the ground, it flew straight up towards the boughs of the tree, evidently with the intention of perching there, but I killed it before it got there.

Two of the others I had marked in the tree, flew out of that oak to two others, one 150 yards to the right, the other 100 yards to the left. The fourth bird could not be driven from the first tree. The foliage of the trees and the gray moss on them was so thick that it was impossible to see the birds.

I have on other occasions (though comparatively rare ones) seen partridges take refuge in trees.

I think birds in a country infested by vermin, minks, coons, etc., are the ones which oftenest acquire this habit.

On the 25th of January, on the south side of Patout Pasture, I came across a crippled woodcock, quite lively and apparently uninjured, though it could not fly. It was about ¾ of a mile from any wood, and about 150 yards from a wire-fence, by striking against which it may have disabled itself. After it was plucked, no shot-mark or wound could be found on it.

There was an old bruise (though a very slight one) on one of its wings, but the bone was not broken or injured. It was in fair condition.

February 13th: I accounted to-day for 6 snipe very satisfactorily.

Some negroes, walking across the Patout Pasture, put up 6 snipe, about four hundred yards from me, which came flying high, directly over my head. I killed one with each barrel, and marked the other four down; put them up again, they all rising wild together, and again I killed one with each barrel; the remaining two going off in different directions, I marked them down and killed both, thus accounting for all six, which was the more satisfactory as they were all long shots.

In the course of my shooting I killed, as I have said before, a great many large hawks of various varieties, not all enumerated here. Also some minks, which I killed whenever I came across them, as they are very destructive to game and poultry. A good many raccoons and some opossums, which I always shot when they came in my way for my "niggers," by whom they were highly esteemed as great delicacies, though, of course, there was no sport in shooting them.

In later years both 'coons and 'possums were in greatly diminished numbers, as were snipe, partridges, rail, ducks, and all kinds of birds.

There were, in the first years of my shooting, a good many otters and alligators on the marshes, in the deeper parts of which they had their holes.

Of the latter, I killed several at various times. Both otters and alligators eventually disappeared.

Altogether there was a sad diminution in the numbers of all kinds of birds and beasts, and in late years the country was so settled up and built over that the prairies and marshes in a great measure lost that solitary, picturesque aspect which gave it such a sporting coloring.

TOTAL OF SNIPE-SHOOTING AT THE SNIPERY.

SNIPE.	Partridges.	Woodcock.	Hares.	Wild Duck.	Teal.	Rail.	Garde-Soleil.	Grouse.	Plover.	HEAD.	
69,087	1036	139	107	168	223	608	369	16	106	71,859	20 Seasons, 1867–68 to 1886–87.
9,515	231	19	39	34	29	175	115		85	10,242	Afterward.
78,602	1267	158	146	202	252	783	484	16	191	82,101	Total.

ROSA AND FAMILY ON CYPRE-MORT

CHAPTER XXVII

EXTRACTS FROM THE "DAILY JOURNAL" OF THE GAME-BOOKS OF THE SNIPERY—COMPARATIVE MONTHLY RECORD OF SNIPE-SHOOTING—NUMBER OF SNIPE KILLED AND NUMBER OF DAYS SHOT UP TO EVERY DAY OF EACH MONTH OF EVERY YEAR.

I KEPT in my Game-Books a record,—"Comparative Monthly Record of Snipe-Shooting,"—by which I could tell at a glance how the shooting of every day of each month of every season compared with those of others.

The larger figures opposite each day of the month record the number of snipe killed on that day; the smaller figures over the larger ones, the number of days of that season shot up to that date.

I also kept a record of the "number of snipe killed and number of days shot up to every day of each month of every year"; by which I could also see at a glance how many snipe I had killed, and how many days I had shot, up to any day of any

month of every year, and so compare the shooting of the different seasons.

In this record, as in the other, the larger figures opposite the days of the month indicate the number of snipe killed; the smaller ones, above the larger ones the number of days I shot up to that date of each season.

It was not always when the birds were most abundant that I made the largest bags, for at times, owing to certain conditions of the weather and of the grounds, to the cover of the localities in which the birds were found, and to their caprices (for the snipe is a very capricious and unreliable bird), they were so wild as to afford comparatively few shots, and I was able to bring to bag comparatively few. While, at other times, owing to a different condition of things, they were more approachable and I succeeded in giving a better account of them, though there may not have been so many as on less favorable days.

COMPARATIVE MONTHLY RECORDS OF SNIPE-SHOOTING

COMPARATIVE MONTHLY RECORD OF SNIPE-SHOOTING

NOVEMBER

Nov.	1868 Snipe	1869 Snipe	1870 Snipe	1871 Snipe	1872 Snipe	1873 Snipe	1874 Snipe	1875 Snipe	1876 Snipe	1877 Snipe
1	....	....	....	57 [2]	....	....	32 [1]	130 [1]	...	....
2	43 [2]	102 [2]	....	....	....	....	....	....	...	....
3	....	....	....	86 [3]	....	....	....	116 [2]	...	....
4	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	...	....
5	86 [3]	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	...	....
6	....	....	....	108 [4]	....	....	....	211 [3]	...	....
7	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	...	....
8	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	114 [4]	...	....
9	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	8 *	....
10	....	63 [3]	....	....	....	65 [1]	....	....	...	....
11	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	90 [5]	...	....
12	....	133 [4]	123 [1]	....	43 [1]	....	....	....	...	162 [1]
13	....	102 [5]	....	....	....	....	....	83 [6]	...	....
14	....	....	230 [2]	....	....	....	134 [2]	....	...	172 [2]
15	....	45 [6]	....	....	....	....	....	....	...	....
16	....	78 [7]	194 [3]	....	....	....	....	....	...	72 [3]
17	....	....	....	123 [5]	....	....	114 [3]	....	...	73 [4]
18	....	....	133 [4]	174 [6]	....	....	....	....	...	....
19	....	....	....	....	....	....	207 [4]	....	...	82 [5]
20	162 [4]	....	....	176 [7]	....	....	....	....	...	....
21	....	....	....	....	....	123 [2]	214 [5]	....	...	88 [6]
22	....	....	172 [5]	118 [8]	....	....	....	....	...	....
23	157 [5]	....	....	....	....	....	228 [6]	129 [7]	...	....
24	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	...	100 [7]
25	....	....	....	....	....	55 [3]	301 [7]	144 [8]	8 *	....
26	55 [6]	187 [8]	....	....	....	....	....	....	...	....
27	58 [7]	73 [9]	....	....	....	....	208 [8]	171 [9]	...	....
28	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	...	....
29	....	242 [10]	....	....	....	81 [4]	....	....	...	....
30	73 [8]	....	134 [6]	....	....	....	256 [9]	65 [10]	...	....
In Nov.	634 [7]	1025 [9]	986 [6]	842 [7]	43 [1]	324 [4]	1662 [9]	1253 [10]	16 *	749 [7]

* Unnumbered days. See Game-Books, Vol. II., p. 40.

COMPARATIVE MONTHLY RECORD OF SNIPE-SHOOTING.

NOVEMBER

Nov.	1878 Snipe	1879 Snipe	1880 Snipe	1881 Snipe	1882 Snipe	1883 Snipe	1884 Snipe	1885 Snipe	1886 Snipe	
1	....	....	37*	14*	....	....	...	....	....	....
2	....	....	....	....	....	....	...	....	....	....
3	....	....	....	....	....	....	...	....	....	....
4	....	....	....	....	12*	....	...	....	....	....
5	....	....	....	30 [1]	....	....	...	....	....	....
6	....	....	....	....	....	7*	...	....	....	....
7	....	....	....	....	....	....	...	33 [1]	....	....
8	....	....	67 [3]	....	10*	....	...	....	....	....
9	....	....	....	....	....	11*	...	51 [2]	....	....
10	....	....	49 [4]	....	....	....	...	....	91 [1]	....
11	....	....	23*	....	....	....	...	33 [3]	....	....
12	....	....	....	....	....	68 [1]	...	....	....	....
13	....	....	....	....	....	40 [2]	...	38 [4]	90 [2]	....
14	....	....	....	6*	....	....	...	....	....	....
15	....	....	34 [5]	....	44 [1]	46*	...	....	90 [3]	....
16	....	....	....	33 [2]	....	38 [3]	...	71 [5]	....	....
17	....	....	38 [6]	108 [3]	....	....	...	....	....	....
18	....	....	....	....	58 [2]	....	...	57 [6]	94 [4]	....
19	....	....	20*	75 [4]	....	70 [4]	...	....	....	....
20	....	85 [1]	38 [7]	....	....	....	...	35 [7]	101 [5]	....
21	....	....	....	125 [5]	....	65 [5]	...	....	....	....
22	....	91 [2]	48 [8]	....	....	28*	...	....	133 [6]	....
23	....	....	....	28*	69 [3]	....	...	94 [8]	....	....
24	....	....	....	....	....	....	...	....	40*	....
25	213 [1]	....	....	....	54 [4]	....	...	135 [9]	74 [7]	....
26	....	....	66 [9]	....	....	....	...	....	....	....
27	....	....	....	....	....	....	...	7*	91 [8]	....
28	123 [2]	....	....	171 [6]	90 [5]	51 [6]	...	84 [10]	....	....
29	....	....	....	....	....	51 [7]	...	....	78 [9]	....
30	71 [3]	....	....	....	92 [6]	19*	...	76 [11]	....	....
In Nov.	407 [3]	176 [2]	423 [7]	590 [6]	429 [6]	494 [7]	00	714 [11]	882 [9]	

* Unnumbered days.

COMPARATIVE MONTHLY RECORD OF SNIPE-SHOOTING

DECEMBER

Dec.	1867 Snipe	1868 Snipe	1869 Snipe	1870 Snipe	1871 Snipe	1872 Snipe	1873 Snipe	1874 Snipe	1875 Snipe	1876 Snipe
1	....	.....	112 11	.....	....	...	...	116 10	.....	
2	47 1	.....	188 12	.....	....	...	...	....	.....	
3	29 2	.....	....	.....	....	...	...	....	109 11	
4	102 3	.....	....	.....	233 9	...	...	....	52 12	
5	28 4	196 9	....	.....	119 10	...	...	....	.....	
6	117 5	.....	....	.....	....	...	...	....	.....	
7	....	73 10	....	.....	114 11	...	...	....	.....	
8	....	149 11	....	.....	.. .	...	...	....	.....	
9	....	.....	....	.....	....	...	...	....	.....	
10	....	.....	....	.....	....	...	...	....	.....	
11	....	.....	....	.....	....	12 2	...	....	.....	
12	....	.....	....	.....	....	...	...	....	.....	
13	....	.....	....	.....	....	...	...	....	.....	
14	....	.....	....	.....	....	74 3	...	....	163 13	
15	....	.....	....	.....	....	...	...	....	.....	
16	....	.....	....	.....	....	...	...	102 11	71 *	
17	....	.....	....	.....	....	...	...	....	.....	
18	....	.....	....	.....	....	...	...	....	185 14	
19	....	.....	....	.....	....	...	...	61 12	.....	
20	....	.....	80 13	140 7	....	...	127 5	....	174 15	
21	....	.....	....	84 8	....	...	...	....	.....	
22	....	.....	49 14	.....	126 12	...	26 6	126 13	158 16	
23	....	.....	82 15	145 9	160 13	...	...	....	.....	
24	....	208 12	....	.....	....	...	78 7	82 14	122 17	
25	....	.....	....	.....	....	...	...	....	.....	
26	....	93 13	....	.....	109 14	...	...	....	.....	
27	....	.....	107 16	42 10	....	...	...	....	102 18	
28	....	81 14	....	.....	56 15	...	...	....	.....	
29	....	.....	....	.....	....	...	...	....	.....	
30	....	71 15	....	103 11	....	...	...	....	113 19	
31	126 6	.....	....	.....	....	...	...	....	.....	
In Dec.	449 6	871 7	618 6	514 5	917 7	86 2	231 3	487 5	1249 9	36 *

No regular shooting this month; 36 snipe killed on parts of days.

COMPARATIVE MONTHLY RECORD OF SNIPE-SHOOTING

DECEMBER

Dec.	1877 Snipe	1878 Snipe	1879 Snipe	1880 Snipe	1881 Snipe	1882 Snipe	1883 Snipe	1884 Snipe	1885 Snipe	1886 Snipe
1	....	....	....	....	163 7	100 7	....	...	....	51 10
2	....	154 4	....	....	....	....	....	...	97 12	....
3	....	....	....	....	181 8	....	64 8	...	....	....
4	....	125 5	....	....	....	83 8	....	...	129 13	36 *
5	....	....	....	....	123 9	....	....	...	....	....
6	....	102 6	166 3	....	....	42 9	....	...	....	81 11
7	....	90 7	....	....	118 10	....	....	...	....	....
8	270 8	....	93 4	48 11	....	42 10	....	...	42 *	78 12
9	....	....	....	26 12	89 11	....	....	...	103 14	....
10	255 9	136 8	....	32 13	....	....	69 9	...	79 15	74 13
11	366 10	....	....	....	....	80 11	40 *	...	....	....
12	....	....	46 5	....	....	....	59 10	...	115 16	....
13	271 11	....	....	56 14	....	34 12	....	...	....	....
14	....	....	....	....	....	....	64 11	...	79 17	83 14
15	286 12	....	42 6	57 15	....	....	....	...	....	....
16	....	....	....	....	....	57 13	....	40 1	31 *	66 15
17	233 13	....	51 7	66 16	....	....	....	...	....	....
18	....	....	....	....	....	....	71 12	...	....	43 16
19	262 14	....	....	....	....	80 14	80 13	...	56 18	....
20	....	....	108 8	56 17	....	....	....	...	....	40 17
21	55 15	....	....	48 18	....	45 15	77 14	...	76 19	....
22	....	....	27 9	....	123 12	....	86 15	...	....	....
23	....	119 9	....	70 19	100 13	68 16	....	...	65 20	....
24	....	....	....	....	....	....	35 16	...	....	52 18
25	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	...	....	....
26	156 16	32 *	....	....	....	....	29 *	...	65 21	....
27	....	....	....	81 20	....	....	82 17	...	....	....
28	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	41 2	....	....
29	....	....	....	....	....	....	75 18	...	58 22	....
30	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	...	....	....
31	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	...	40 23	....
In Dec.	2154 9	758 6	526 7	540 10	897 7	631 10	831 11	81 2	1035 12	604 9

* Unnumbered days.

COMPARATIVE MONTHLY RECORD OF SNIPE-SHOOTING

JANUARY

Jan.	1868 Snipe	1869 Snipe	1870 Snipe	1871 Snipe	1872 Snipe	1873 Snipe	1874 Snipe	1875 Snipe	1876 Snipe	1877 Snipe
1	....	.....	....	.....	....	...	...	....	54 20	...
2	....	.....	....	....	....	...	F. M.	....	.....	...
3	....	.....	....	.....	....	...	...	....	.....	...
4	....	113 16	....	.....	....	35 4	...	130 15	100 21	...
5	....	.....	....	.....	....	...	...	....	.....	...
6	....	83 17	....	.....	....	...	...	....	.....	...
7	....	.....	....	.....	....	33 5	...	85 16	.....	...
8	....	.....	71 17	.....	....	...	...	....	.....	...
9	....	.....	....	.....	140 16	54 6	55 8	125 17	.....	...
10	....	.....	88 18	.....	....	...	70 9	....	.....	...
11	....	.....	....	.....	....	...	...	....	.....	...
12	....	.....	....	.....	....	...	...	....	.....	...
13	....	151 18	....	.....	....	F. M.	...	....	.....	...
14	....	.....	....	.....	....	...	39 10	....	.....	...
15	....	.....	....	.....	....	...	...	....	.....	...
16	....	80 19	....	.....	....	...	...	....	.....	...
17	....	.....	....	.....	....	...	72 11	....	.....	...
18	....	.....	....	.....	....	...	...	....	.....	61 1
19	....	71 20	....	.....	....	...	...	....	.....	...
20	....	115 21	....	.....	....	...	...	....	.....	47 2
21	....	12 22	....	.....	....	...	...	....	.....	...
22	....	.....	....	.....	....	...	...	....	.....	...
23	....	.....	....	.....	....	...	...	....	.....	74 3
24	....	.....	....	.....	....	...	...	....	.....	...
25	....	.....	....	.....	....	...	...	....	.....	...
26	....	.....	....	.....	....	...	...	....	.....	...
27	....	.....	....	25 12	....	...	...	....	.....	...
28	....	.....	....	53 13	....	...	...	....	.....	...
29	....	.....	....	.....	....	...	...	91 18	157 22	...
30	110 7	.....	....	46 14	....	...	...	160 19	.....	...
31	47 8	.....	....	.....	....	...	...	....	84 23	...
In Jan.	157 2	625 7	159 2	124 3	140 1	122 3	236 4	591 5	389 4	182 3

COMPARATIVE MONTHLY RECORD OF SNIPE-SHOOTING

JANUARY

Jan.	1878 Snipe	1879 Snipe	1880 Snipe	1881 Snipe	1882 Snipe	1883 Snipe	1884 Snipe	1885 Snipe	1886 Snipe	1887 Snipe
1	....	....	....	.....	....	.....	63 19	.....	....	....
2	....	....	....	.....	....	.....	61 20	.....	....	....
3	....	....	....	.....	....	.....	.....	118 3	....	....
4	....	....	....	.....	F. M.	.....	81 21	.....	.....	....
5	....	....	....	.....	....	.....	.....	14 *	15 *	....
6	....	....	....	.....	68 14	.....	.....	.....	....	....
7	....	....	....	.....	32 *	.....	8 *	.....	....	....
8	....	F. M.	....	.....	....	F. M. 63 17	.....	68 4	....	62 19
9	....	....	....	.....	18 15	.....	30 *	.....	....	....
10	....	....	....	80 21	....	44 18	55 22	.....	....	36 20
11	....	....	....	.....	22 *	.....	.....	.....	.....	....
12	....	....	127 10	.....	....	.....	F. M. 43 23	.....	....	22 *
13	....	....	....	63 22	....	56 19	.....	.....	....	....
14	....	....	....	.....	....	.....	.....	.....	....	19 *
15	....	....	85 11	F. M. 75 23	....	16 *	.....	.....	....	....
16	....	....	....	.....	....	.....	41 24	.....	....	....
17	....	....	96 12	.....	47 16	4 *	.....	.....	....	17 *
18	F. M.	....	....	22 *	....	.....	.....	.....	5 *	....
19	....	....	91 13	.....	....	.....	.....	.....	....	49 21
20	....	....	....	.....	....	42 20	.....	.....	13 *	....
21	....	....	....	.....	29 *	.....	.....	.....	43 24	24 *
22	....	....	100 14	.....	....	.....	.....	84 5	....	....
23	142 17	....	....	.....	54 17	49 21	.....	.....	39 25	....
24	....	....	68 15	.....	....	.....	.....	21 *	....	31 22
25	135 18	....	....	122 24	42 18	53 22	.....	.....	38 26	....
26	88 19	....	....	62 25	13 *	.....	64 25	.....	....	19 *
27	....	....	F. M.	104 26	....	42 23	.....	53 6	85 27	....
28	81 20	....	....	.....	42 19	.....	69 26	23 *	....	....
29	....	....	....	70 27	....	.....	16 *	70 7	79 28	14 *
30	....	....	....	.....	....	.....	.....	.....	....	....
31	....	235 10	....	48 28	78 20	.....	55 27	F. M. 75 8	....	....
In Jan.	446 4	235 1	567 6	646 8	445 7	369 7	586 9	526 6	317 5	283 4

* Unnumbered days.

COMPARATIVE MONTHLY RECORD OF SNIPE-SHOOTING

February

Feb.	1868 Snipe	1869 Snipe	1870 Snipe	1871 Snipe	1872 Snipe	1873 Snipe	1874 Snipe	1875 Snipe	1876 Snipe	1877 Snipe
1	68 9	....	....	....	.....	.....	F. M.	233 20	....	....
2	....	....	....	....	112 17	.....	....	82 21	177 24	....
3	36 10	....	....	....	113 18	113 7	....	.....	....	....
4	....	....	....	....	.....	.....	....	210 22	98 25	....
5	....	....	125 19	....	131 19	140 8	....	.....	63 26	....
6	....	....	....	....	.....	.....	67 12	105 23	....	....
7	....	....	77 20	....	116 20	65 9	109 13	.....	....	....
8	....	....	151 21	....	.....	63 10	....	183 24	83 27	....
9	....	....	151 22	....	129 21	.....	109 14	.....	F. M.	194 4
10	....	....	149 23	....	110 22	.....	....	.....	....	163 5
11	....	....	....	....	.....	.....	110 15	133 25	....	....
12	....	....	137 24	....	120 23	F. M. 37 11	....	.....	....	123 6
13	....	....	....	....	.....	.....	90 16	142 26	....	....
14	29 11	....	79 25	....	.....	.....	136 17	.....	116 28	117 7
15	77 12	99 23	....	....	.....	.....	....	121 27	....	....
16	....	71 24	103 26	....	.....	.....	86 18	.....	110 29	156 8
17	109 13	....	38 27	....	.....	64 12	....	.....	....	....
18	78 14	114 25	....	....	.....	.....	105 19	85 28	121 30	....
19	111 15	69 26	83 28	....	.....	.....	....	.....	....	170 9
20	139 16	107 27	....	167 15	.....	.....	142 20	F. M. 154 29	....	....
21	28 17	....	99 29	128 16	.....	.....	90 21	.....	....	225 10
22	60 18	....	....	171 17	180 24	90 13	....	115 30	123 31	20 *
23	....	92 28	....	93 18	162 25	.....	120 22	.....	....	54 11
24	101 19	127 29	....	....	F. M. 55 26	71 14	....	126 31	79 32	110 12
25	49 20	....	....	62 19	.....	.....	....	.....	....	....
26	....	....	82 30	....	93 27	165 15	....	196 32	122 33	123 13
27	....	50 30	....	139 20	.....	.....	....	185 33	....	F. M.
28	....	....	81 31	96 21	95 28	166 16	107 23	.....	....	74 14
29	....	....	....	....	.....	.....	....	.....	171 34	....
In Feb.	885 12	729 8	1355 13	856 7	1416 12	974 10	1271 12	2070 14	1263 11	1529 11

* Unnumbered days.

COMPARATIVE MONTHLY RECORD OF SNIPE-SHOOTING

February

Feb.	1878 Snipe	1879 Snipe	1880 Snipe	1881 Snipe	1882 Snipe	1883 Snipe	1884 Snipe	1885 Snipe	1886 Snipe	1887 Snipe
1	....	124 11	.....	.....	86 21	64 24	58 28	....	112 29	26 23
2	....	.....	.....	36 29	.....	....	36 29	121 9	....	....
3	....	55 12	118 16	.....	F. M. 45 22	39 25	....	....	38 *	24 *
4	....	.....	.....	57 30	51 23	....	46 30	122 10	....	....
5	....	78 13	60 *	.....	.....	....	....	....	71 30	15 *
6	....	F. M. 113 14	.....	.....	41 24	39 26	37 31	....	73 31	....
7	....	.....	128 17	.....	.....	....	....	117 11	....	....
8	....	144 15	.....	.....	.....	31 27	50 32	....	47 32	....
9	....	.....	126 18	.....	.....	....	43 33	115 12	....	....
10	....	112 16	.....	42 31	55 25	22 28	....	....	66 33	....
11	129 21	.....	.....	.....	110 26	....	....	141 13	....	....
12	124 22	41 17	87 19	91 32	.....	....	48 34	....	98 34	17 *
13	....	.....	.....	.....	86 27	....	....	129 14	....	....
14	127 23	.....	102 20	F. M. 64 33	.....	27 29	102 35	....	....	18 *
15	....	117 18	.....	.....	87 28	....	....	....	86 35	....
16	84 24	.....	.....	133 34	.....	....	58 36	140 15	....	....
17	....	104 19	60 21	.....	83 29	28 30	....	....	87 36	16 *
18	46 25	.....	.....	16 35	107 30	....	85 37	67 16	....	....
19	F. M.	97 20	.....	111 36	.....	52 31	74 38	....	88 37	....
20	56 26	.....	37 22	.....	.....	....	....	119 17	....	....
21	136 27	117 21	.....	.....	.....	18 32	78 39	....	....	....
22	....	.....	.....	134 37	.....	....	49 *	....	70 38	....
23	138 28	.....	24 23	.....	153 31	....	77 40	61 18	....	....
24	....	125 22	.....	144 38	51 32	82 33	....	....	89 39	60 24
25	176 29	.....	F. M. 75 24	.....	.....	....	73 41	72 19	....	47 25
26	....	102 23	.....	106 39	.....	83 34	....	....	122 40	....
27	130 30	.....	.....	.....	.....	....	77 42	54 20	....	....
28	....	.....	42 25	80 40	.....	....	92 43	F. M.	....	16 *
29	....	.....	.....	.....	.....	....	....	....	....	....
In Feb.	1156 10	1325 13	859 10	904 12	955 12	485 11	1083 16	1258 12	1047 12	239 3

* Unnumbered days.

COMPARATIVE MONTHLY RECORD OF SNIPE-SHOOTING

March

Mch.	1868 Snipe	1869 Snipe	1870 Snipe	1871 Snipe	1872 Snipe	1873 Snipe	1874 Snipe	1875 Snipe	1876 Snipe	1877 Snipe
1	....	162 31	170 32	.....	....	128 17	....	164 34	.....	.....
2	....	83 32	152 33	103 22	99 29	....	98 24	....	35 35	36 15
3	....	110 33	117 34	92 23	....	109 18	F. M.	251 35	131 36	61 16
4	....	120 34	....	87 24	73 30	....	115 25	....	.....	.....
5	....	11 *	48 35	.....	....	152 19	....	172 36	.....	103 17
6	....	.....	....	101 25	85 31	....	81 26	....	.....	.....
7	....	.....	73 36	66 26	....	....	....	....	.....	82 18
8	....	.....	89 37	.....	68 32	46 20	....	305 37	.....	.....
9	....	21 35	71 38	.....	18 33	....	113 27	123 38	.....	94 19
10	....	143 36	....	126 27	....	....	136 28	....	F. M. 188 37	25 20
11	....	49 37	93 39	85 28	151 34	88 21	....	167 39	.....	.....
12	....	.....	....	.....	62 35	....	....	....	.....	80 21
13	....	68 38	....	.....	....	....	....	225 40	119 38	.....
14	....	.....	....	.....	87 36	F. M.	....	....	.....	76 22
15	....	.....	....	.....	....	....	....	171 41	125 39	.....
16	....	.....	....	.....	....	....	....	125 42	.....	.....
17	....	.....	....	112 29	....	....	127 29	....	.....	105 23
18	....	.....	....	162 30	109 37	....	....	....	116 40	.....
19	....	.....	....	.....	....	....	130 30	....	.....	171 24
20	145 21	.....	....	.....	....	....	121 31	....	.....	.....
21	144 22	.....	....	.....	....	....	....	F. M.	120 41	131 25
22	....	.....	....	.....	....	108 22	....	....	.....	.....
23	67 23	.....	....	.....	....	....	117 32	....	60 42	148 26
24	....	.....	....	.....	F. M.	....	....	....	.....	.....
25	....	.....	....	.....	....	136 23	....	....	.....	126 27
26	....	.....	....	.....	....	....	....	....	.....	108 28
27	....	.....	....	.....	....	....	....	....	.....	.....
28	....	.....	....	.....	....	....	....	....	.....	.....
29	....	.....	....	.....	....	....	....	....	.....	F. M.
30	....	.....	....	.....	....	....	....	....	.....	.....
31	....	.....	....	.....	....	....	....	....	.....	.....
In Mch.	356 3	767 8	813 8	934 9	752 9	767 7	1038 9	1703 9	894 8	1346 14

* Unnumbered days.

COMPARATIVE MONTHLY RECORD OF SNIPE-SHOOTING

March

Mch.	1878 Snipe	1879 Snipe	1880 Snipe	1881 Snipe	1882 Snipe	1883 Snipe	1884 Snipe	1885 Snipe	1886 Snipe	1887 Snipe
1	97 31	59 24	....	.....	25 33	85 35	155 44	....	....	...
2	....	....	49 26	.....	50 34	....	.....	120 21	150 41	...
3	....	70 25	....	88 41	....	87 36	112 45	....	....	20 *
4	111 32	....	....	.....	F. M.	....	.....	....	....	...
5	124 33	123 26	....	91 42	....	85 37	45 *	70 22	83 42	...
6	....	....	66 27	.....	65 35	....	131 46	....	55 43	...
7	73 34	36 27	....	.....	....	....	.....	24 23	....	...
8	....	F. M.	31 28	90 43	26 36	56 38	105 47	....	77 44	...
9	....	....	....	35 44	....	....	.....	....	....	47 26
10	....	38 28	44 29	.....	....	33 *	.....	....	75 45	...
11	62 35	....	....	61 45	30 37	....	F. M. 111 48	145 24	....	...
12	....	....	....	.....	....	102 39	.....	....	....	...
13	143 36	30 29	70 30	.....	....	....	.....	47 25	54 46	...
14	....	....	....	37 46	....	61 40	.....	....	....	...
15	78 37	....	....	.....	83 38	....	81 49	....	77 47	...
16	47 38	....	46 31	F. M. 22 *	....	26 *	.....	74 26	....	...
17	...	....	....	.....	....	72 41	.....	....	62 48	...
18	F. M.	....	....	.....	....	....	.....	58 27	....	...
19	....	....	....	51 47	....	....	.....	....	....	...
20	....	....	....	.....	....	....	.....	....	....	...
21	....	....	....	.....	....	....	.....	....	....	...
22	....	....	....	.....	....	....	.....	....	....	...
23	....	....	....	.....	....	F. M.	.....	....	....	...
24	....	....	....	.....	....	....	.....	....	....	...
25	....	....	....	.....	....	....	.....	....	....	...
26	....	....	F. M.	.....	....	....	.....	....	....	...
27	....	....	....	.....	....	....	.....	....	....	...
28	....	....	....	.....	....	....	.....	....	....	...
29	....	....	....	.....	72 39	....	.....	....	....	...
30	....	....	....	.....	....	....	.....	F. M.	....	...
31	....	....	....	.....	....	....	.....	....	....	...
In Mch.	735 8	356 6	306 6	475 7	351 7	607 7	740 6	538 7	631 8	67 1

* Unnumbered days.

COMPARATIVE MONTHLY RECORD OF SNIPE-SHOOTING

April

April	1868 Snipe	1869 Snipe	1870 Snipe	1873 Snipe	1875 Snipe	1877 Snipe	1878 Snipe	1881 Snipe
2	14 * 24	....	.. 40	....	.....	.....	.....	....
4	....	....	50 *	....	.....	.....	.....	....
5	....	....	....	....	70 *	.....	51 *	60 *
6	....	....	....	....	.....	.....	23 *	36 *
14	....	....	....	12 *	.....	.....	.....	....
18	....	....	....	....	.....	.....	.....	....
19	....	....	....	....	.....	.....	.....	....
25	....	....	....	....	.....	7 *	.....	....
In April	14 * 24	....	50 * 40	12 *	70 *	7 *	74 *	96 *

* Unnumbered days.

COMPARATIVE MONTHLY RECORD OF SNIPE-SHOOTING

OCTOBER

Oct.	1868 Snipe	1869 Snipe	1871 Snipe	1874 Snipe	1880 Snipe			
25	....	....	....	....	38 *	.....	.....	....
28	....	20 [1]	....	....	140 [1]	.....	.....	....
30	....	....	75 [1]	21 *	64 [2]	.....	.....	....
31	19 [1]	....	....	....	.....	.....	.....	....
In Oct.	19 [1]	20 [1]	75 [1]	21 *	242 [2]			

* Unnumbered days.

NUMBER OF SNIPE KILLED AND NUMBER OF DAYS SHOT UP TO EACH DAY OF NOVEMBER OF EVERY YEAR

Nov.	1868 Snipe	1869 Snipe	1870 Snipe	1871 Snipe	1872 Snipe	1873 Snipe	1874 Snipe	1875 Snipe	1876 Snipe	1877 Snipe
1	19 [2]	20 [1]	....	132 [2]	....	....	32 [1]	130 [1]	....	....
2	62 [3]	122 [2]	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
3	....	....	....	218 [3]	....	....	....	246 [2]	....	....
4	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
5	148 [4]	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
6	....	....	....	326 [4]	....	....	....	457 [3]	....	....
7	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
8	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	571 [4]	....	....
9	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	8 *	....
10	....	185 [3]	....	....	....	65 [1]	....	....	....	....
11	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	661 [5]	....	....
12	....	318 [4]	123 [1]	....	43 [1]	....	....	....	....	162 [1]
13	....	420 [5]	....	....	....	....	....	744 [6]	....	....
14	....	....	353 [2]	....	....	....	166 [2]	....	....	334 [2]
15	....	465 [6]	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
16	....	543 [7]	547 [3]	....	....	....	....	....	....	406 [3]
17	....	....	....	449 [5]	....	....	280 [3]	....	....	479 [4]
18	....	....	680 [4]	623 [6]	...	....	....	....	....	....
19	....	....	....	....	....	....	487 [4]	....	....	561 [5]
20	310 [5]	....	....	799 [7]	....	....	....	....	....	....
21	....	....	....	....	....	188 [2]	701 [5]	....	....	649 [6]
22	....	....	850 [5]	917 [8]	....	....	....	....	....	....
23	467 [6]	....	....	....	....	....	929 [6]	873 [7]	....	....
24	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	749 [7]
25	....	....	....	....	....	243 [3]	1230 [7]	1017 [8]	16 *	....
26	522 [7]	730 [8]	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
27	580 [8]	803 [9]	....	....	....	....	1438 [8]	1188 [9]	....	....
28	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
29	....	1045 [10]	....	....	....	324 [4]	....	....	....	....
30	653 [9]	1045 [10]	984 [6]	917 [8]	43 [1]	324 [4]	1694 [9]	1253 [10]	16 *	749 [7]

* Unnumbered days. See Game-Book, p. 40.

NUMBER OF SNIPE KILLED AND NUMBER OF DAYS SHOT UP TO EACH DAY OF NOVEMBER OF EVERY YEAR

Nov.	1878 Snipe	1879 Snipe	1880 Snipe	1881 Snipe	1882 Snipe	1883 Snipe	1884 Snipe	1885 Snipe	1886 Snipe	1887 Snipe
1	....	....	279 2*	14 *	....	....	....	....	....	....
2	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
3	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
4	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
5	....	....	....	44 1	....	....	....	....	....	....
6	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
7	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	33 1	....	42 1
8	....	....	346 3	....	....	....	....	....	....	63 *
9	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	84 2	....	....
10	....	....	398 4	....	....	....	....	....	91 1	131 2
11	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	117 3	....	144 *
12	....	....	....	....	....	76 1	....	....	....	182
13	....	....	....	....	....	126 2	....	155 4	181 2	....
14	....	....	....	....	66 1	....	....	....	....	....
15	....	....	455 5	....	....	....	....	....	271 3	246 3
16	....	....	....	83 2	....	210 3	....	226 5	....	....
17	....	....	493 6	191 3	....	....	....	....	....	316 4
18	....	....	....	....	124 2*	....	....	283 6	365 4	....
19	....	....	....	266 4	....	280 4	....	....	....	338 5
20	....	85 1	551 7	....	....	....	....	318 7	466 5	....
21	....	....	....	391 5	....	345 5	....	....	....	406 6
22	....	176 2	599 8	....	....	....	....	....	599 6	....
23	....	....	....	419 *	193 3	....	....	412 8	....	455 7
24	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	639 *	....
25	213 1	....	....	....	247 4	....	....	547 9	713 7	459 *
26	....	....	665 9	....	....	....	....	....	....	496 8
27	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	804 8	....
28	336 2	....	....	590 6	337 5	424 6	....	638 10*	....	....
29	....	....	....	....	....	475 7	....	....	882 9	....
30	407 3	176 2	665 9	590 6	429 6	494 7*	....	714 11	882 9	496 8

* Unnumbered days.

NUMBER OF SNIPE KILLED AND NUMBER OF DAYS SHOT UP TO EACH DAY OF DECEMBER OF EVERY YEAR

Dec.	1867 Snipe	1868 Snipe	1869 Snipe	1870 Snipe	1871 Snipe	1872 Snipe	1873 Snipe	1874 Snipe	1875 Snipe	1876 Snipe
1	47 [1]	653 [8]	1164 [11]	984 [6]	917 [8]	43 [1]	324 [4]	1810 [10]	1253 [10]	16 *
2	76 [2]	....	1352 [12]	....	....	....	....	....	....	
3	178 [3]	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1362 [11]	
4	206 [4]	849 [9]	....	....	1150 [9]	....	....	....	1418 [12]	
5	323 [5]	....	....	....	1269 [10]	....	....	....	....	
6	....	922 [10]	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	
7	....	1071 [11]	....	....	1383 [11]	....	....	....	....	
8	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	
9	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	
10	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	
11	....	....	....	....	....	55 [2]	....	....	....	
12	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	
13	....	....	....	....	....	129 [3]	....	....	....	
14	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1577 [13]	
15	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	
16	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1912 [11]	....	
17	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	
18	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1833 [14]	
19	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1973 [12]	....	
20	....	....	1432 [13]	1124 [7]	....	....	451 [5]	....	2007 [15]	
21	....	....	....	1208 [8]	....	....	....	....	....	
22	....	....	1481 [14]	....	1509 [12]	....	477 [6]	2099 [13]	2165 [16]	
23	....	....	1563 [15]	1353 [9]	1669 [13]	....	....	....	....	
24	....	1279 [12]	....	....	....	....	555 [7]	2181 [14]	2287 [17]	
25	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	
26	....	1372 [13]	....	....	1778 [14]	....	....	....	....	
27	....	....	1670 [16]	1395 [10]	....	....	....	....	2389 [18]	
28	....	1453 [14]	....	....	1834 [15]	....	....	....	....	
29	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	
30	....	....	....	1498 [11]	....	....	....	....	2502 [19]	
31	449 [6]	1524 [15]	1670 [16]	1498 [11]	1834 [15]	129 [3]	555 [7]	2181 [14]	2502 [19]	52 *

No regular shooting this month ; 36 snipe killed on parts of days.

* Unnumbered days.

NUMBER OF SNIPE KILLED AND NUMBER OF DAYS SHOT UP TO EACH DAY OF DECEMBER OF EVERY YEAR

Dec.	1877 Snipe	1878 Snipe	1879 Snipe	1880 Snipe	1881 Snipe	1882 Snipe	1883 Snipe	1884 Snipe	1885 Snipe	1886 Snipe
1	749 [7]	407 [3]	176 [2]	722 [10]	753 [7]	429 [6]	494 [7]	....	714 [11]	933 [10]
2	....	561 [4]	....	....	....	529 [7]	....	....	811 [12]	....
3	....	....	....	....	934 [8]	....	558 [8]	....	....	....
4	....	686 [5]	....	....	....	612 [8]	....	....	940 [13]	966 *
5	....	....	....	....	1057 [9]	....	....	....	....	....
6	....	788 [6]	342 [3]	....	....	654 [9]	....	....	....	1050 [11]
7	....	878 [7]	....	....	1175 [10]	....	....	....	....	....
8	1019 [8]	....	435 [4]	770 [11]	....	696 [10]	....	....	982 *	1128 [12]
9	....	....	....	796 [12]	1264 [11]	....	627 [9]	....	1085 [14]	....
10	1274 [9]	1014 [8]	....	828 [13]	....	....	....	....	1164 [15]	1202 [13]
11	1640 [10]	....	....	....	....	776 [11]	726 [10]	....	....	....
12	....	....	481 [5]	....	....	....	....	....	1279 [16]	....
13	1911 [11]	....	....	884 [14]	....	810 [12]	790 [11]	....	....	....
14	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1358 [17]	1285 [14]
15	2197 [12]	....	574	941 [15]	....	....	....	40 [1]	....	....
16	....	....	....	....	....	867 [13]	....	....	1389 *	1351 [15]
17	2430 [13]	....	574 [17]	1007 [16]	....	....	....	....	....	....
18	....	....	....	....	....	....	861 [12]	....	....	1394 [16]
19	2692 [14]	....	....	....	....	947 [14]	941 [13]	....	1445 [18]	....
20	....	....	675 [8]	1063 [17]	....	....	....	....	....	1434 [17]
21	2747 [15]	....	....	1111 [18]	....	992 [15]	1018 [14]	....	1521 [19]	....
22	....	....	702 [9]	....	1387 [12]	....	1104 [15]	....	....	....
23	....	1165 [9]	....	1181 [19]	1487 [13]	1060 [16]	....	....	1586 [20]	....
24	....	....	....	....	....	....	1139 [16]	....	....	1486 [18]
25	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
26	2903 [16]	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1651 [21]	....
27	....	....	....	1260 [20]	....	....	1250 [17]	81 [2]	....	....
28	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
29	....	....	....	....	....	....	1325 [18]	....	1709 [22]	....
30	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
31	2903 [16]	1165 [9]	702 [9]	1260 [20]	1487 [13]	1060 [16]	1325 [18]	81 [2]	1749 [23]	1486 [18]

* Unnumbered days.

NUMBER OF SNIPE KILLED AND NUMBER OF DAYS SHOT UP TO EACH DAY OF JANUARY OF EVERY YEAR

Jan.	1868 Snipe	1869 Snipe	1870 Snipe	1871 Snipe	1872 Snipe	1873 Snipe	1874 Snipe	1875 Snipe	1876 Snipe	1877 Snipe
1	449 [6]	1524 [15]	1714 [16]	1498 [11]	1834 [15]	129 [3]	555 [7]	2181 [14]	2556 [20]	52 *
2	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
3	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
4	....	1637 [16]	....	....	....	....	....	2311 [15]	2656 [21]	....
5	....	1720 [17]	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
6	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
7	....	....	....	....	....	199 [4]	....	2396 [16]	....	....
8	....	....	1785 [17]	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
9	....	....	....	....	1974 [16]	253 [5]	610 [8]	2521 [17]	....	....
10	....	....	1873 [18]	....	....	....	680 [9]	....	....	....
11	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
12	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
13	....	1671 [18]	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
14	....	....	....	....	....	....	719 [10]	....	....	....
15	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
16	....	1951 [19]	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
17	....	....	....	....	....	....	791 [11]	....	....	....
18	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	113 [1]
19	....	2022 [20]	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
20	....	2137 [21]	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	160 [2]
21	....	2149 [22]	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
22	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
23	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	234 [3]
24	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
25	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
26	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
27	....	....	....	1523 [12]	....	....	....	....	....	....
28	....	....	....	1576 [13]	....	....	....	....	2807 [22]	....
29	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2612 [18]	....	....
30	559 [7]	....	....	1622 [14]	....	....	....	2772 [19]	....	....
31	606 [8]	2149 [22]	1873 [18]	1622 [14]	1974 [16]	253 [5]	791 [11]	2772 [19]	2891 [23]	234 [3]

* Unnumbered days.

NUMBER OF SNIPE KILLED AND NUMBER OF DAYS SHOT UP TO EACH DAY OF JANUARY OF EVERY YEAR

Jan.	1878 Snipe	1879 Snipe	1880 Snipe	1881 Snipe	1882 Snipe	1883 Snipe	1884 Snipe	1885 Snipe	1886 Snipe	1887 Snipe
1	2903 [16]	1165 [9]	702 [9]	1260 [20]	1487 [13]	1060 [16]	1388 [19]	81 [2]	1749 [23]	1486 [18]
2	....	....	....	....	....	....	1449 [20]	....	....	....
3	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	199 [3]	....	....
4	....	....	....	....	....	....	1530 [21]	....	....	....
5	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	213 *	1764 *	....
6	....	....	....	....	1555 [14]	....	....	....	....	....
7	....	....	....	....	1587 *	....	....	....	....	....
8	....	....	....	....	....	1123 [17]	....	281 [4]	....	1548 [19]
9	....	....	....	....	1605 [15]	....	1623 [22]	....	....	....
10	....	....	....	1343 [21]	....	1167 [18]	....	....	....	1584 [20]
11	....	....	....	....	1627 *	....	1666 [23]	....	....	....
12	....	....	829 [10]	1405 [22]	....	....	....	....	....	1606 *
13	....	....	....	....	....	1223 [19]	....	....	....	....
14	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1625 *
15	....	....	914 [11]	1480 [23]	....	....	....	....	....	....
16	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
17	....	....	1010 [12]	....	1674 [16]	....	1707 [24]	....	....	1642 *
18	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1769 *	....
19	....	....	1101 [13]	....	....	....	....	....	....	1691 [21]
20	....	....	....	....	....	1285 [20]	....	....	1782 *	....
21	....	....	....	....	1703 *	....	....	....	1825 [24]	1715 *
22	....	....	1201 [14]	....	....	....	....	365 [5]	....	....
23	3045 [17]	....	....	....	1757 [17]	1334 [21]	....	....	1864 [25]	....
24	....	....	1269 [15]	....	....	....	....	386 *	....	1746 [22]
25	3180 [18]	....	....	1264 [24]	1799 [18]	1387 [22]	....	....	1902 [26]	....
26	....	....	....	1686 [25]	1812 *	....	1771 [25]	....	....	1765 *
27	3268 [19]	....	....	1790 [26]	....	1429 [23]	....	439 [6]	1987 [27]	....
28	....	....	....	....	1854 [19]	....	1840 [26]	462 *	....	....
29	3349 [20]	....	....	1860 [27]	....	....	....	532 [7]	2066 [28]	1779 *
30	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
31	3349 [20]	1400 [10]	1269 [15]	1908 [28]	1932 [20]	1429 [23]	1911 [27]	607 [8]	2066 [28]	1779 [22]

* Unnumbered days.

NUMBER OF SNIPE KILLED AND NUMBER OF DAYS SHOT UP TO EACH DAY OF FEBRUARY OF EVERY YEAR

Feb.	1868 Snipe	1869 Snipe	1870 Snipe	1871 Snipe	1872 Snipe	1873 Snipe	1874 Snipe	1875 Snipe	1876 Snipe	1877 Snipe
1	674 9	2149 22	1873 18	1622 14	1974 16	253 6	791 11	3005 20	2891 23	234 3
2	....	....	....	....	2086 17	....	....	3087 21	3068 24	....
3	710 10	....	....	....	2199 18	366 7	....	....	....	....
4	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3297 22	3166 25	....
5	....	....	1998 19	....	2330 19	506 8	....	....	3229 26	....
6	....	....	....	....	....	....	858 12	3402 23	....	....
7	....	....	2075 20	....	2440 20	571 9	967 13	....	....	....
8	....	....	2226 21	....	....	634 10	....	2585 24	3312 27	....
9	....	....	2377 22	....	2575 21	....	1076 14	....	....	428 4
10	....	....	2526 23	....	2685 22	....	....	....	....	591 5
11	....	....	....	....	....	....	1186 15	3718 25	....	....
12	....	....	2663 24	....	2805 23	671 11	....	....	....	714 6
13	....	....	....	....	....	....	1276 16	3860 26	....	....
14	739 11	....	2742 25	....	....	....	1412 17	....	3428 28	831 7
15	816 12	2248 23	....	....	....	....	....	3981 27	....	....
16	....	2319 24	2845 26	....	....	....	1498 18	....	3538 29	987 8
17	925 13	....	2883 27	....	....	735 12	....	....	....	....
18	1003 14	2435 25	....	....	....	....	1603 19	4066 28	3659 30	....
19	1114 15	2502 26	2966 28	....	....	....	....	....	....	1157 9
20	1253 16	2609 27	....	1789 15	....	....	1745 20	4220 29	....	....
21	1281 17	....	3065 29	1917 16	....	....	1835 21	....	....	1382 10
22	1341 18	....	....	2088 17	2985 24	825 13	....	4335 30	3782 31	....
23	....	2701 28	....	2181 18	3147 25	....	1955 22	....	....	1456 11
24	1442 19	2828 29	....	....	3202 26	896 14	....	4461 31	3861 32	1556 12
25	1491 20	....	....	2243 19	....	....	....	....	....	....
26	....	....	3147 30	....	3295 27	1061 15	....	4657 32	3983 33	1689 13
27	....	2878 30	....	2382 20	....	....	....	4842 33	....	....
28	1491 20	2878 30	3228 31	2478 21	3390 28	1227 16	2062 23	4842 33	3983 33	1763 14
29	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	4154 34	....

NUMBER OF SNIPE KILLED AND NUMBER OF DAYS SHOT UP TO EACH DAY OF FEBRUARY OF EVERY YEAR

Feb.	1878 Snipe	1879 Snipe	1880 Snipe	1881 Snipe	1882 Snipe	1883 Snipe	1884 Snipe	1885 Snipe	1886 Snipe	1887 Snipe
1	3349 [20]	1524 [11]	1269 [15]	1908 [28]	2018 [21]	1493 [24]	1969 [28]	607 [8]	2178 [29]	1805 [23]
2	....	....	....	1944 [29]	....	....	2005 [29]	728 [9]	....	....
3	....	1579 [12]	1387 [16]	....	2063 [22]	1531 [25]	....	....	2216 *	1829 *
4	....	....	....	2001 [30]	2124 [23]	....	2051 [30]	850 [10]	....	....
5	....	1657 [13]	....	....	....	....	....	....	2287 [30]	1844 *
6	....	1770 [14]	....	....	2155 [24]	1571 [26]	2088 [31]	....	2360 [31]	....
7	....	....	1575 [17]	....	....	....	....	967 [11]	....	....
8	....	1914 [15]	....	....	....	1602 [27]	2138 [32]	....	2407 [32]	....
9	....	....	1701 [18]	....	....	....	2181 [33]	1082 [12]	....	....
10	....	2026 [16]	....	2044 [31]	2210 [25]	1624 [28]	....	....	2473 [33]	....
11	3478 [21]	....	....	....	2326 [26]	....	....	1223 [13]	....	....
12	3602 [22]	2067 [17]	1788 [19]	2134 [32]	....	....	2229 [34]	....	2571 [34]	1861 *
13	....	....	....	....	2406 [27]	....	....	1352 [14]	....	....
14	3739 [23]	....	1890 [20]	2198 [33]	....	1659 [29]	2331 [35]	....	....	1879 *
15	....	2184 [18]	....	....	2493 [28]	....	....	....	2657 [35]	....
16	3823 [24]	....	....	2331 [34]	....	....	2389 [36]	1492 [15]	....	....
17	....	2288 [19]	1950 [21]	....	2576 [29]	1679 [30]	....	....	2744 [36]	1895 *
18	3869 [25]	....	....	2347 [35]	2683 [30]	....	2474 [37]	1559 [16]	....	....
19	....	2385 [20]	....	2458 [36]	....	1731 [31]	2548 [38]	....	2832 [37]	....
20	3925 [26]	....	1987 [22]	....	....	....	....	1678 [17]	....	....
21	4061 [27]	2502 [21]	....	....	....	1749 [32]	2626 [39]	....	....	....
22	....	....	....	2592 [37]	....	....	2675 *	....	2902 [38]	....
23	4199 [28]	....	2011 [23]	....	2836 [31]	....	2752 [40]	1739 [18]	....	....
24	....	2627 [22]	....	2736 [38]	2887 [32]	1831 [33]	....	....	2991 [39]	1955 [24]
25	4375 [29]	....	2086 [24]	....	....	....	2825 [41]	1811 [19]	....	2002 [25]
26	....	2729 [23]	....	2842 [39]	....	1914 [34]	....	....	3113 [40]	....
27	4504 [30]	....	....	....	....	....	2902 [42]	1865 [20]	....	....
28	4504 [30]	2729 [23]	2128 [25]	2922 [40]	2887 [32]	1914 [34]	2994 [43]	1865 [20]	3113 [40]	2018 [26]
29	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....

* Unnumbered days.

NUMBER OF SNIPE KILLED AND NUMBER OF DAYS SHOT UP TO EACH DAY OF MARCH OF EVERY YEAR

Mch.	1868 Snipe	1869 Snipe	1870 Snipe	1871 Snipe	1872 Snipe	1873 Snipe	1874 Snipe	1875 Snipe	1876 Snipe	1877 Snipe
1	1491 [20]	3040 [31]	3388 [32]	2478 [21]	3390 [28]	1355 [17]	2062 [23]	5006 [34]	4154 [34]	1763 [14]
2	....	3123 [32]	3550 [33]	2581 [22]	3489 [29]	....	2160 [24]	....	4189 [35]	1799 [15]
3	....	3233 [33]	3667 [34]	2673 [23]	....	1464 [18]	....	5257 [35]	4320 [36]	1860 [16]
4	....	3353 [34]	....	2760 [24]	3562 [30]	....	2275 [25]	....	....	....
5	....	3364 *	3715 [35]	....	....	1616 [19]	....	5429 [36]	....	1963 [17]
6	....	....	....	2861 [25]	3647 [31]	....	2356 [26]	....	....	....
7	....	....	3788 [36]	2927 [26]	....	....	....	....	....	2045 [18]
8	....	....	3877 [37]	....	3715 [32]	1662 [20]	....	5734 [37]	....	....
9	....	3385 [35]	3948 [38]	....	3733 [33]	....	2469 [27]	5857 [38]	....	2139 [19]
10	....	3528 [36]	....	3053 [27]	....	....	2603 [28]	....	4508 [37]	2164 [20]
11	....	3577 [37]	4041 [39]	3138 [28]	3884 [24]	1750 [21]	....	6024 [39]	....	....
12	....	....	....	....	3946 [35]	....	....	....	....	2244 [21]
13	....	3645 [38]	....	....	....	....	....	6249 [40]	4627 [38]	....
14	....	....	....	....	4033 [36]	....	....	....	....	2320 [22]
15	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	6420 [41]	4752 [39]	....
16	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	6545 [42]	....	....
17	....	....	....	3250 [29]	....	....	2732 [29]	....	....	2425 [23]
18	....	....	....	3412 [30]	4142 [37]	....	....	....	4868 [40]	....
19	....	....	....	....	....	....	2862 [30]	....	....	2596 [24]
20	1636 [21]	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
21	1780 [22]	....	....	....	....	....	2983 [31]	....	4988 [41]	2727 [25]
22	....	....	....	....	....	1858 [22]	....	....	....	....
23	1847 [23]	....	....	....	....	....	3100 [32]	....	5048 [42]	2875 [26]
24	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3001 [27]
25	....	....	....	....	....	1994 [23]	....	....	....	....
26	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3109 [28]
27	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
28	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
29	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
30	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
31	1847 [23]	3645 [38]	4041 [39]	3412 [30]	4142 [37]	1994 [23]	3100 [32]	6545 [42]	5048 [42]	3109 [28]

* Unnumbered days.

NUMBER OF SNIPE KILLED AND NUMBER OF DAYS SHOT UP TO EACH DAY OF MARCH OF EVERY YEAR

Mch.	1878 Snipe	1879 Snipe	1880 Snipe	1881 Snipe	1882 Snipe	1883 Snipe	1884 Snipe	1885 Snipe	1886 Snipe	1887 Snipe
1	4602 31	2788 24	2128 25	2922 40	2912 33	1999 35	3149 44	1865 20	3113 40	2018 25
2	....	....	....	....	2962 34	....	....	1985 21	3263 41	....
3	....	2858 25	2177 26	3010 41	....	2086 36	3261 45	....	....	2038 *
4	4713 32	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
5	4837 33	2981 26	....	3101 42	....	2171 37	....	2055 22	3346 42	....
6	....	....	2243 27	....	3027 35	....	3437 46	....	3401 43	....
7	4910 34	3017 27	....	....	....	....	....	2079 23	....	....
8	....	....	2274 28	3191 43	3053 36	2227 38	3542 47	....	3478 44	....
9	....	....	....	3226 44	....	....	....	....	....	2085 26
10	....	3055 28	2318 29	....	....	2260 *	....	....	3551 45	....
11	4972 35	....	....	3287 45	3083 37	....	3653 48	2224 24	....	....
12	....	....	....	....	....	2362 39	....	....	....	....
13	5115 36	3085 29	2388 30	....	....	....	....	2271 25	3605 46	....
14	....	....	....	3324 46	....	2423 40	....	....	....	....
15	5193 37	....	....	....	3166 38	....	3734 49	....	3682 47	....
16	5240 38	....	2434 31	....	....	2449 *	....	2345 26	....	....
17	....	....	....	....	....	2521 41	....	....	3744 48	....
18	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2403 27	....	....
19	....	....	....	3397 47	....	....	....	....	....	....
20	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
21	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
22	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
23	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
24	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
25	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
26	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
27	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
28	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
29	....	....	....	....	3238 39	....	....	....	....	....
30	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
31	5240 38	3085 29	2434 31	3397 47	3238 39	2521 41	3734 49	2403 27	3744 48	2085 26

* Unnumbered days.

CHAPTER XXVIII

EXTRACTS FROM THE "DAILY JOURNAL" OF THE GAME-BOOKS OF THE SNIPERY

DAILY RECORD OF SNIPE KILLED, IN NUMERICAL ORDER

I ALSO kept in my Game-Book a "Daily Record of Snipe Killed, in Numerical Order."

In this I recorded the number of snipe killed every day in their numerical order.

This was interesting, as showing at a glance how often I killed the same number, and at what season, and on what grounds. I have killed over 300 on 3 days—972 in the 3 days; over 200 on 26 days—6378 in the 26 days; 100 and upwards on 285 days—40,367 in the 285 days.

In my best 300 days I killed 41,821.

In my best 664 days, 66,411 snipe—an average of 100 and eleven over for the 664 days.

DAILY RECORD OF SNIPE KILLED, IN NUMERICAL ORDER.

Snipe, to my own gun.			
366	11	Dec.,	1877
305	8	Mar.,	1875
301	25	Nov.,	1874
286	15	Dec.,	1877
271	13	Dec.,	1877
270	8	Dec.,	1877
262	19	Dec.,	1877
256	30	Nov.,	1874
255	10	Dec.,	1877
251	3	Mar.,	1875
——	2,823—10	days' shooting.	

Snipe, to my own gun.			
188	2	Dec.,	1869
188	10	Mar.,	1876
187	26	Nov.,	1869
185	27	Feb.,	1875
185	18	Dec.,	1875
183	8	Feb.,	1875
181	3	Dec.,	1881
180	22	Feb.,	1872
177	2	Feb.,	1876
176	20	Nov.,	1871
——	8,988—40	days' shooting.	

242	29	Nov.,	1869
235	31	Jan.,	1879
233	4	Dec.,	1871
233	1	Feb.,	1875
233	17	Dec.,	1877
230	14	Nov.,	1870
228	23	Nov.,	1874
225	13	Mar.,	1875
225	21	Feb.,	1877
214	21	Nov.,	1874
——	5,121—20	days' shooting.	

176	25	Feb.,	1878
174	18	Nov.,	1871
174	20	Dec.,	1875
172	5	Mar.,	1875
172	14	Nov.,	1877
171	22	Feb.,	1877
171	15	Mar.,	1875
171	27	Nov.,	1875
171	29	Feb.,	1876
171	19	Mar.,	1877
——	10,711—50	days' shooting.	

213	25	Nov.,	1874
211	6	Nov.,	1875
210	4	Feb.,	1875
208	24	Dec.,	1868
208	27	Nov.,	1874
207	19	Nov.,	1875
——	6,378—26	days' shooting.	

171	28	Nov.,	1881
170	1	Mar.,	1870
170	22	Nov.,	1870
170	19	Feb.,	1877
167	20	Feb.,	1871
167	11	Mar.,	1875
166	28	Feb.,	1873
166	6	Dec.,	1879
165	26	Feb.,	1873
164	1	Mar.,	1875
——	12,387—60	days' shooting.	

196	6	Dec.,	1868
196	26	Feb.,	1875
194	16	Nov.,	1870
194	9	Feb.,	1877
——	7,158—30	days' shooting.	

Snipe, to my own gun.			
163	14	Dec.,	1875
163	10	Feb.,	1877
163	11	Dec.,	1881
162	20	Nov.,	1868
162	1	Mar.,	1869
162	18	Mar.,	1871
162	23	Feb.,	1872
162	12	Nov.,	1877
160	23	Dec.,	1871
160	30	Jan.,	1875
——	14,006—70	days' shooting.	
158	22	Dec.,	1875
157	23	Nov.,	1868
156	16	Feb.,	1877
155	1	Mar.,	1877
154	2	Dec.,	1878
153	23	Feb.,	1882
152	2	Mar.,	1870
152	5	Mar.,	1873
151	13	Jan.,	1869
151	8	Feb.,	1870
——	15,545—80	days' shooting.	
151	9	Feb.,	1870
151	11	Mar.,	1872
151	28	Jan.,	1876
150	2	Mar.,	1886
149	8	Dec.,	1868
149	10	Feb.,	1870
148	23	Mar.,	1877
145	20	Mar.,	1868
145	23	Dec.,	1870
145	11	Mar.,	1885
——	17,029—90	days' shooting.	
144	21	Mar.,	1868
144	25	Nov.,	1875
144	8	Feb.,	1879
144	24	Feb.,	1881
143	10	Mar.,	1869
143	13	Mar.,	1878
142	20	Feb.,	1874
142	13	Feb.,	1875
142	23	Jan.,	1878
141	11	Feb.,	1885
——	18,458—100	days' shooting.	

Snipe, to my own gun.			
140	20	Dec.,	1870
140	9	Dec.,	1872
140	5	Feb.,	1873
140	28	Oct.,	1880
140	16	Feb.,	1885
139	20	Feb.,	1868
139	27	Feb.,	1871
138	23	Feb.,	1878
137	12	Feb.,	1870
137	12	Feb.,	1878
——	19,848—110	days' shooting.	
136	25	Mar.,	1873
136	14	Feb.,	1874
136	10	Mar.,	1874
136	21	Feb.,	1878
136	10	Dec.,	1878
135	25	Jan.,	1878
135	25	Nov.,	1885
134	13	Nov.,	1870
134	14	Nov.,	1874
134	22	Feb.,	1881
——	21,200—120	days' shooting.	
133	12	Nov.,	1869
133	18	Nov.,	1870
133	11	Feb.,	1875
133	16	Feb.,	1881
133	22	Nov.,	1886
131	5	Feb.,	1872
131	3	Mar.,	1876
131	21	Mar.,	1877
131	6	Mar.,	1884
130	19	Mar.,	1874
——	22,519—130	days' shooting.	
130	4	Jan.,	1875
130	1	Nov.,	1875
130	27	Feb.,	1878
129	9	Feb.,	1872
129	23	Nov.,	1875
129	11	Feb.,	1878
129	13	Feb.,	1885
129	4	Dec.,	1885
128	21	Feb.,	1871
128	1	Mar.,	1873
——	23,810—140	days' shooting.	

Snipe, to my own gun.

128	7	Feb.,	1880
127	24	Feb.,	1869
127	20	Dec.,	1873
127	17	Mar.,	1874
127	12	Jan.,	1880
126	31	Dec.,	1867
126	10	Mar.,	1871
126	22	Dec.,	1871
126	22	Dec.,	1874
126	24	Feb.,	1875
—— 25,076	—150	days' shooting.	
126	24	Mar.,	1877
126	9	Feb.,	1880
125	5	Feb.,	1870
125	9	Jan.,	1875
125	16	Mar.,	1875
125	15	Mar.,	1876
125	4	Dec.,	1878
125	24	Feb.,	1879
125	21	Nov.,	1881
124	12	Feb.,	1878
—— 26,327	—160	days' shooting.	
124	5	Mar.,	1878
124	1	Feb.,	1879
123	12	Nov.,	1870
123	17	Nov.,	1871
123	21	Nov.,	1873
123	9	Mar.,	1875
123	22	Feb.,	1876
123	12	Feb.,	1877
123	26	Feb.,	1877
123	28	Nov.,	1878
—— 27,559	—170	days' shooting.	
123	5	Mar.,	1879
123	5	Dec.,	1881
123	22	Dec.,	1881
122	24	Dec.,	1875
122	26	Feb.,	1876
122	25	Jan.,	1881
122	4	Feb.,	1885
122	26	Feb.,	1886
121	21	Mar.,	1874
121	15	Feb.,	1875
—— 28,580	—180	days' shooting.	

Snipe, to my own gun.

121	18	Feb.,	1876
121	2	Feb.,	1885
120	4	Mar.,	1889
120	12	Feb.,	1872
120	23	Feb.,	1874
120	21	Mar.,	1876
120	2	Mar.,	1885
119	5	Dec.,	1871
119	13	Mar.,	1876
119	23	Dec.,	1878
—— 29,879	—190	days' shooting.	
119	20	Feb.,	1885
118	22	Nov.,	1871
118	3	Feb.,	1880
118	7	Dec.,	1881
118	3	Jan.,	1885
117	6	Dec.,	1867
117	1	Mar.,	1870
117	13	Mar.,	1874
117	14	Feb.,	1877
117	15	Feb.,	1879
—— 31,155	—200	days' shooting.	
117	21	Feb.,	1879
117	7	Feb.,	1885
116	7	Feb.,	1872
116	1	Dec.,	1874
116	3	Nov.,	1875
116	14	Feb.,	1876
116	18	Mar.,	1876
115	20	Jan.,	1869
115	4	Mar.,	1874
115	22	Feb.,	1875
—— 32,314	—210	days' shooting.	
115	9	Feb.,	1885
115	12	Dec.,	1885
114	18	Feb.,	1869
114	7	Dec.,	1871
114	17	Nov.,	1874
114	8	Nov.,	1875
113	4	Jan.,	1869
113	3	Feb.,	1872
113	3	Feb.,	1873
113	9	Mar.,	1874
—— 33,452	—220	days' shooting.	

Snipe, to my own gun.

113	30	Dec.,	1875
113	6	Feb.,	1879
112	1	Dec.,	1869
112	17	Mar.,	1871
112	2	Feb.,	1872
112	10	Feb.,	1879
112	3	Mar.,	1884
112	1	Feb.,	1886
111	19	Feb.,	1868
111	4	Mar.,	1878
—— 34,572—	—230	days' shooting.	

111	19	Feb.,	1881
111	11	Mar.,	1884
110	30	Jan.,	1868
110	3	Mar.,	1869
110	10	Feb.,	1872
110	11	Feb.,	1874
110	16	Feb.,	1876
110	24	Feb.,	1877
110	11	Feb.,	1882
109	17	Feb.,	1868
—— 35,673—	—240	days' shooting.	

109	2	Nov.,	1869
109	26	Dec.,	1871
109	18	Mar.,	1872
109	3	Mar.,	1873
109	7	Feb.,	1874
109	9	Feb.,	1874
109	3	Dec.,	1874
108	6	Nov.,	1871
108	22	Mar.,	1873
108	26	Mar.,	1877
—— 36,760—	—250	days' shooting.	

108	17	Nov.,	1881
107	20	Feb.,	1869
107	27	Dec.,	1869
107	28	Feb.,	1874
107	18	Feb.,	1882
106	26	Feb.,	1881
105	18	Feb.,	1874
105	6	Feb.,	1875
105	17	Mar.,	1877
105	8	Mar.,	1884
—— 37,822—	—260	days' shooting.	

Snipe, to my own gun.

104	17	Feb.,	1879
104	27	Jan.,	1881
103	16	Feb.,	1870
103	30	Dec.,	1870
103	2	Mar.,	1871
103	5	Mar.,	1877
103	9	Dec.,	1885
102	14	Feb.,	1867
102	4	Dec.,	1869
102	13	Nov.,	1874
—— 38,851—	—270	days' shooting.	

102	16	Dec.,	1875
102	27	Dec.,	1878
102	6	Dec.,	1879
102	26	Feb.,	1880
102	12	Mar.,	1883
102	14	Feb.,	1884
101	24	Feb.,	1868
101	6	Mar.,	1871
101	20	Dec.,	1879
101	20	Nov.,	1886
—— 39,867—	—280	days' shooting.	

100	4	Jan.,	1876
100	24	Nov.,	1877
100	22	Jan.,	1880
100	23	Dec.,	1881
100	2	Dec.,	1882
—— 40,367—	—285	days' shooting.	

99	15	Feb.,	1869
99	21	Feb.,	1870
99	2	Mar.,	1872
98	2	Mar.,	1874
98	4	Feb.,	1876
—— 40,860—	—290	days' shooting.	

98	12	Feb.,	1886
97	1	Mar.,	1878
97	19	Feb.,	1879
97	2	Dec.,	1885
97	27	Feb.,	1889
96	28	Feb.,	1871
96	17	Jan.,	1880
95	28	Feb.,	1872
94	9	Mar.,	1877
94	23	Nov.,	1885
—— 41,821—	—300	days' shooting.	

CHAPTER XXIX

MY BEST SIX CONSECUTIVE SHOOTING DAYS

MY BEST SEVEN CONSECUTIVE SHOOTING DAYS

Condensed Record of Snipe-Shooting

MY BEST SIX CONSECUTIVE SHOOTING DAYS

1874.	Snipe.	Various.	Head.
19 November.....	207	3	210
21 "	214	7	221
23 "	228	5	233
25 "	301	3	304
27 "	208	2	210
30 "	256	..	256
Total, 6 days.....	1,414	20	1,434

MY BEST SEVEN CONSECUTIVE SHOOTING DAYS

1877.	Snipe.	Various.	Head.
8 December.....	270	6	276
10 "	255	3	258
11 "	366	8	374
13 "	271	1	272
15 "	286	2	288
17 "	233	2	235
19 "	262	3	265
Total, 7 days.....	1,943	25	1,968

CONDENSED RECORD OF SNIPE-SHOOTING

Season.	Days.	SNIPE.	Various.	Head.
1867–1868	24	1,861	55	1,916
1868–1869	38	3,645	316	3,961
1869–1870	40	4,091	173	4,264
1870–1871	30	3,412	124	3,536
1871–1872	37	4,142	99	4,241
1872–1873	23	2,006	139	2,145
1873–1874	32	3,100	125	3,225
1874–1875	42	6,615	112	6,727
1875–1876	42	5,048	173	5,221
1876–1877	28	3,116	73	3,189
1877–1878	38	5,314	104	5,418
1878–1879	29	3,085	86	3,171
1879–1880	31	2,434	34	2,468
1880–1881	47	3,493	197	3,690
1881–1882	39	3,238	171	3,409
1882–1883	41	2,521	212	2,733
1883–1884	49	3,734	141	3,875
1884–1885	27	2,403	57	2,460
1885–1886	48	3,744	245	3,989
1886–1887	26	2,085	136	2,221
20 Seasons	711	69,087	2,772	71,859
Afterwards	..	9,515	727	10,242
Total		78,602	3,499	82,101

CHAPTER XXX

SALIENT FEATURES OF THE TWENTY YEARS' SNIPE-SHOOTING—LIFE AT THE SNIPERY AND OAK-LAWN—"LAYS OF THE SNIPERY"

IN the preceding pages I have given the salient features of "the twenty years' snipe-shooting," which are chiefly the large bags of snipe, the number of those large bags, and the high average of each day's shooting.

I have had, in my time, shooting of many kinds,—of big game, Bear and Deer, and of winged game, a great variety; but take it all in all, I liked best the snipe-shooting as I had in these twenty years with its pleasant surroundings.

Colonel Hawker calls snipe-shooting "The trout-fishing of shooting," and I quite agree with him.

I have made many and copious extracts from my game-books which are pretty monotonous.

There must always be more or less monotony and repetition in the account of so many days' shooting; for after all, there is but little to tell, except that on

each day I found more or less snipe and killed as many of them as I could.

I have, however, written this chiefly for my own amusement, and, perhaps, for the perusal of a few old friends, with whom, "in the good old days of yore," "when the birds were rising fast on Cypre-Mort," I had the pleasure of "tramping over the marshy prairie," and to recall to my mind many days of good sport and pleasant companionship.

Looking over my game-books, to make these extracts, has brought vividly and pleasantly to me the recollection of many big shoots and hard but enjoyable days in the bogs and sloughs of Camperdown and Cypre-Mort, and of those happy times when the glamour of youth was over everything, and of many old friends, most of whom have, alas! gone over to the great majority.

The life at the Snipery was not only a very sporting, but a very picturesque one.

There, and at Oaklawn, were among the very few instances where the old patriarchal life of the South survived the ravages of the civil war; its social dislocations, and the manumission of the slaves.

We were surrounded and served by our old slaves; and the wild shooting over the solitary marshes, the peculiar features of the country, with its beautiful live oaks, the wide expanse of prairie, dotted over with isolated groups of moss-covered trees, the seclusion and remoteness from the outer

world, though sufficiently accessible when desirable, all gave a local coloring which was very unique and attractive.

"What years and ghosts rise up between then and now."

I have appended several of the Snipery poems from "Lays of the Snipery" by my gifted friend the late Miss Annie Porter, of Oaklawn; also an uncommonly clever shooting song by my friend, S. Nicholson Kane, written when he was on a visit to the Snipery.

I have also given at the end a few practical (not scientific) notes of the birds I shot, their weights, etc.

INVITATION TO THE SNIPERY FOR CHRISTMAS, 1876

Come for the sake of the days that are past,
And the nights that we knew of yore;
Loose not a link of the chain that is fast,
But come to my hearth once more.
To the welcome warm and the friendship true,
And the turkey even more sweet,
To a most superlative partridge stew
And a bottle of sound Lafite.
And hot and hotter shall the roasted snipe
With their savory trail appear;
And crisp, white lettuce and shallots ripe,
Shall add to our wintry cheer.

So come to the Snipery, come again
For the cheerful old Christmas-time ;
We 'll rob one hour of its parting pain,
As we list to the midnight chime.

A. P.

THE SNIPERY'S WELCOME

Welcome, Williams, welcome,
From your distant home,
Not for kindly friendship
Need you farther roam.
Tramping o' er the prairies,
Comrade staunch and true,
Where the guns are cracking,
Who so keen as you ?

Many a year has flitted
Since our youth went by ;
But our pace is steady,
Quick the sportsman's eye.
Not a slough can stop us,
Not a bog can turn ;
Still with sporting ardor
Both our bosoms burn.

When the birds are rising
Fast on Cypre-Mort,
Still our Purdeys stop them
Surely as of yore.
When the pace is furious
On far Longinais,

Few are the twisting Longbills
That live to get away.

O'er the marshy prairie,
Through the bogs and fens
Of Camperdown and Dumesnil,
Across Bitot's and Penn's,
Unflagging and untiring,
Well settled to our work,
From sunrise until sunset
Not a single slough we shirk.

Under the mahogany,
When the day is done,
Who recalls more pleasantly
Just how the sport has gone?
When the bottle passes,
And the fire shines clear,
Who remembers better
Friends of old held dear?

Welcome, Williams, welcome,
From your distant home,
Not for truest welcome
Need you farther roam.

A. P.

THE SNIPERY'S ADIEU.

Farewell! your welcome scarce was sung
Before you turn to fly;
And now there falters on each tongue
That saddest word, "good-bye."

Surely you might have tarried here
  Where time exists no more !—
Life's tide has paused for many a year,
  Upon our Southern shore.

And, like those lonely rocks afar,
  Where wandering sea-birds rest,
Our friends, thus few, more treasured are
  Than if a throng had pressed.
But still the sea-bird lingers not,
  And if you must be gone,
Go ! but be never more forgot,
  The hours so swiftly flown !

And since Achilles' fate * was thine,
  Look on thy wounded heel,
And think on all you must resign,
  In leaving Dumesnil. * *
And when the evening hour has struck
  The hour for friendship ripe,
Eat, if you will, your celeried duck,
  But think of my broiled snipe !

For we shall miss you morn and night ;
  I in the field, and all
When in the pleasant evening light
  Past evenings we recall.
And midst your table's kindly glee,
  And when the dinner ends,
I will not say remember me,
  But think of absent friends.

A. P.

* He hurt his heel while shooting.
* * A famous shooting ground.

THE MAXIMUM

THE MAXIMUM—366 SNIPE IN SIX HOURS

Let the huntsman chase the fox, let him course the timid hare ;
Let the hunter track the lion or the tiger to his lair ;
Let the Indian stalk the bison over fields of frozen snow ;
Let the angler whip the stream for the timid trout below ;
Let the sportsman praise the merits of the pheasant or the quail,
The duck, the cock, the prairie-hen, the partridge, or the rail ;
I admit there are advantages in game of ev'ry type,
But I 've never heard of beast or bird to excel the twisting snipe.

CHORUS :

Then come with me to Cypre-Mort, I 'll show you what I mean,
For the birds are lying close where the marsh is growing green ;
With their "chape-chape-chape," 't is the gamest thing that flies—
And "mark that bird, you rascal, where the devil are your eyes ?"
In the silent Newfoundland are the barrens where they breed,
Near the sunny Bayou Têche lie the marshes where they feed ;
Three thousand miles and more, they have followed down the sun,
By land and sea they come to me to fall beneath my gun.

And this morning I shall shoot them over Pellerin and Penn ;
For I shall make a better bag than ever yet has been.
They have gathered from the uplands, they have flown from off the leas,
And to-day they'll lie as still "as stones and thick as bumble-bees."

CHORUS : Then come with me, etc.

Let the sluggard lie abed—I am off for Cypre-Mort,
With a dog at heel behind, and a wisp of snipe before ;
Now "Mark !" "Where ?" "There !" Hear the cracking of the gun ?
God bless me ! 't was a sporting shot, and that was number *one*.
I skirt the edge of Dumesnil, a bog on either hand,
And as we go 't is "Steady, so ! the dog is at a stand !"
Now a hundred on the gun ! Ah ! my boy, it would not do,
For the Purdey tells its story, and this is number *two*.

CHORUS : Then come with me, etc.

Mark the driver from the sedges ; yes, but mark that curl of smoke ;
As quick his flight as rays of light, but quicker is the choke.
The shot goes surging to him, and turning round and round,
No cripple there, but dead in air, he tumbles to the ground.
Shoot them when they first get up and twist against the wind,

Shoot them when they come across, or try to fly behind,
Shoot them right and left when they 're rising up in pairs,
High or low, or how they go, the Snipist never cares.

CHORUS: Then come with me, etc.

And when the day is over, and the gun behind the door,
I light the pipe and count the snipe in rows upon the floor.
Forty, fifty, sixty, sixty-six from Dumesnil,
And fifteen score from Cypre-Mort, with a brace or two of teal.
To single gun, the bag was won, before the sun was set,
My eye was quick, and birds were thick on Penn and Jennerett,
On Pellerin, on Dumesnil, Patout, and Longinais—
With one for every minute through a quarter of the day!

CHORUS: Then come with me, etc.

Now bring the cup and fill it up and let the fire burn,
The kindly blaze to other days my memories will turn.
Through the glowing embers see my comrades come again,
And with "Otho" and "Old Henry" I am walking in the fen.
And as the shadows flicker and dance upon the wall
More dear to me the "Snipery" than castle or than hall,
For fifty thousand spirit snipe come flying through the door,
And as I doze, they fall in rows before me on the floor.

CHORUS: Then come with me, etc.

Then here 's a toast to every ghost and all that yet can fly,
For twisting snipe 's the gamest type of bird beneath the sky.

But though the cup be brimming, my heart is fuller yet,
When I pledge them now, the gentle friends I never can forget ;
For theirs the kindly faces that have welcomed me at night,
And theirs the genial graces that have made my life so bright—
With their poetry, wit, music, how the pleasant hours have gone.
Then fill it high, and drain it dry, to the "Ladies of Oaklawn."

CHORUS : Then come with me, etc.

S. NICHOLAS KANE.
THE SNIPERY, OAKLAWN, BAYOU TÊCHE, Feb., 1880.

RETROSPECTION

Back ! back ! let my memory stray o'er the years
Which lie farther behind me, alas ! than before—
Recall those blest moments, unmarred by the fears
Or the passions of men, and live through them once more.

Oh, the days when the flash and crack of my gun
Answered quick to the call of the snipe as they rose ;
And their shadows, down dropping, t'wixt me and the sun,
Mutely told of the numbers my bag would disclose !

In the flush of the morning when Nature was still,
And I sprang from the wagon, 't was pleasant to feel

How pulses and muscles and strong nerves would thrill
As I hied the dogs on from their place at my heel.

The steady tramp forward, the smell of the grass,
As it swayed right and left, or was crushed neath my feet,
The splash of the water, the yielding morass—
Oh, the sights and the sounds of those mornings were sweet!

Though the smoke of my Purdey incessantly rolled,
And the "chape" of the snipe was ne'er lost on my ear,
I saw every cloud in the heavens unfold,
And Nature's least echo of life did I hear.

Every feather that's worn by the birds of the air,
Every call that they utter, was pleasure to me,
And Nature wore never an aspect less fair—
Though floods were descending and tempests were free.

What stretches I traversed of prairie and field!
What bogs and what sloughs I passed through in a day!
Dumesnil and Baudin their full quota must yield,
And never forgotten be far Longinais.

Oh, Cypre-Mort! Camperdown! long may thy plains
To the heart of the sportsman be honored and dear;
When no recollection of Pringle remains
May the "chape" of the snipe echo frequent and clear!

For gratefully still does my memory turn
To the low-lying marshes and rush-hidden fens.
Provost! Pellerin! ah, the toil was stern!
But on! we must finish the day's work at Penn's.

Many miles well tramped over, they did not seem long,
And swiftly the winter days drew to a close ;
Then one draught e'er leaving, one generous and strong !
The wagon, and oh ! the blest sense of repose.

How pleasant to settle down handling the reins,
And feel the good horses respond to the call ;
A fast, steady trot homewards over the plains—
No darkness could stop us, no bog-holes appal.

The Harding woods reached, scarce a dim ray of light
E'er pierced through the shadows to show us the way;
Yet still would we manage to come out all right,
And then a clear road between us and home lay.

So away with a rush we'd go, thinking afar
Of the dinner that smoked at the end of the drive,
Of the fire which shone, a familiar home-star,
And the faces that brightened to see us arrive.

At last, drawing up to the small cottage door,
Master, markers, and dogs would alight,
Somewhat stiff in the joints, while spread on the floor
Would the bag be first counted aright !

And then reeking hot, just one strong cup of tea,
As I stretched for a while by the fire ;
My bath heated just to a certain degree,
How grateful the feeling of warmth t'would inspire !

Then refreshed like a giant, and hungry as one,
The hour of dinner would find me prepared,
Each thought that could trouble me vanished and gone,
And only the brightest and pleasantest spared.

A. P.

OLD JOSEPH AND FAMILY ON CAMPERDOWN

CHAPTER XXXI

DESCRIPTION OF BIRDS, WEIGHTS, ETC.

IN giving the following description of birds, I do not pretend to any scientific ornithological knowledge, for I have none.

The account I give of the birds are only from personal observation; from a practical shooting experience, supplemented with occasional references to, and corroboration by Audubon.

As regards the misnomer "quail"—so general—of the "Virginia Partridge," the advocates of the appellation "Quail," may say the bird is not a partridge, which it may not be technically and scientifically, but it certainly resembles the European partridge more than it does the European quail.

And the fact of its being strictly a non-migrant, as is the European partridge, whereas the European quail is a decided one, is, I think, conclusive that the term quail is incorrect, as applied to our bird, and that, as Audubon says, "the appellation of partridge is more appropriate."

The American woodcock is not more like the

European woodcock (being only about half the size and very different in plumage) than is the American partridge like its European congener; still, in spite of the difference, we call it a woodcock.

SNIPE.

The snipe, of which the shooting has been here recorded, is the "common snipe," so called, I suppose because it is the same all over the world.

Audubon in his account of it, heads his description, "Wilson Snipe," "Common Snipe."

Some ornithologists say that the American bird has two more feathers in the tail than its European congener.

How this is, I do not know, but in appearance, size, plumage, note, habits, mode of flight, indeed, in all respects, it is exactly the same as the Common Snipe of Europe and other parts of the world.

The Creoles of southern Louisiana used to call it "Cache-Cache." In some parts of the United States it is called the "English Snipe."

Audubon puts its weight at 3 ozs., which, I think, rather under the average.

The following are the weights of a number, very carefully weighed at the Snipery, from time to time, in different years and different months, immediately on being taken out of the shooting wagon, after shooting.

30th October, 10 snipe weighed 43 ozs.

1st November, 20 snipe weighed 81 ozs.

12th February, 20 snipe weighed 72 ozs.

16th December, 20 snipe, 81 ozs.
26th December, 1 snipe, 4⅜ ozs.
9th January, 1 snipe, 4¼ ozs.

These birds were all in good condition, selected as being the best among a good many.

I have never known one to weigh as much as 5 ozs., but I have seen accounts in the "London Field" of snipe in England, and also in Nova Scotia, weighing much more, though, I think, the Attakapas Snipe will compare favorably in size and condition with any in the world; for the winters are mild and the food must be very abundant, or they would not resort there in such numbers.

I read some years ago in the "Field," a letter from Mr. John Cordeaux, from Lincolnshire, I think, who seemed to know a good deal about snipe, in which he says, "I have never shot one that weighed quite 5 ozs.; my experience is that the average size is 3¼ to 3¾ ozs. and does not often exceed 4 ozs." My experience coincides with that of Mr. John Cordeaux.

The snipe, when in good condition and well cooked, is, in my opinion, quite the best bird to eat in the world; far better than woodcock. I have repeatedly had them served at the same time, roasted exactly alike, and the woodcock were nowhere as compared with the snipe.

The snipe of Camperdown and Cypre-Mort were particularly good, for, feeding entirely on inland marshes, they were always quite free from the sedgy

flavor, which the bird sometimes has; and they were especially fine at the table of the Snipery, as only picked birds, selected out of large numbers, were served. As far as my experience goes, the above comparison of snipe and woodcock—so favorable to the former—only applies to the Attakapas Snipe, which is always quite free (owing perhaps to the food) from the sedgy taste so often appertaining to the bird in other places, which render it much inferior to the woodcock, though the snipe of some other inland marshes may be as good as those of the Attakapas.

So, in the best days of the Snipery, the Snipery dinners were as famous as the Snipery shooting, and from much and long practice, my black cook became very expert in cooking them in all kinds of ways; and the snipe purée, snipe pies, snipe salmis, roasted snipe, and other Snipery specialties, were unequalled.

I remember one day at dinner with two friends, when with our appetites sharpened by a hard day on the marshes, the snipe were being very vividly enjoyed, one of my convives remarked very suddenly and brusquely to the other, who was eating his snipe with great gusto, "W——, I don't believe you come here to shoot, I think you come here to dine."

I have never seen or heard of the "Jack Snipe" or the "Double" or "Solitary Snipe" in this country, and I do not think either of those birds exist on this American Continent.

THE PARTRIDGE.

Audubon calls this bird "The Common American Partridge" or "Virginia Partridge."

He says, "The common name given to this bird in the Eastern and Middle Districts of our Union, is that of "Quail," but in the Western and Southern States the more appropriate appellation of "Partridge" is bestowed upon it."

I have always, from boyhood, called and heard it called "Partridge," which, in my opinion is the correct name, although the incorrect one of "Quail" has of late years become general all over the country, North and South.

Clearly a misnomer, for the Quail proper is a great migrant, which our bird is most decidedly not. Audubon does not give the weight.

The weights of some, weighed at the Snipery, were as follows:

7th December, 10 partridges weighed together 57 ozs.

12th February, 12 weighed 72 ozs.

4th December, 4 weighed 26 ozs.

18th December, 2 cocks, 13½ ozs.

Same day, 2 hens, 11½ ozs.

February 26th, one young cock, 6¼ ozs.

Same day, one young hen, 5¾ ozs.

THE WOODCOCK.

Audubon calls this bird "The American Woodcock"—"Bogsucker," though much smaller and of

different plumage, it has the same habits as the European bird. I think the markings and coloring of the American bird, the handsomest. Audubon does not give its weight. At the Snipery, on the 3rd of February, one female, a fine bird, in good condition, weighed $7\frac{3}{4}$ ozs.

February 1st of another year, one weighed $6\frac{7}{8}$ ozs., one $6\frac{3}{4}$ ozs., one $6\frac{1}{2}$, all females in good conditions.

The male Woodcock is much smaller than the female. This bird is also a migrant like the snipe, though not so extensive in its migrations.

The American bird is much more delicate and better than the European for the table.

THE WILD DUCK.

The Wild Duck, (Duck and Mallard) is, I think, the same all over the world.

THE GREEN WING TEAL.

The Green Wing Teal, called in Southern Louisiana, "Sarcelle d'hiver," is also, I think, the same all over the world, a migrant.

THE BLUE WING TEAL.

The Blue Wing Teal is called in Southern Louisiana "Sarcelle printanière" by the Creole gunners, from its appearing here as a rule, only in autumn and spring, with a few exceptions; different from the Green Wing, which spends the winter here.

I do not think the same bird is found in Europe.

Both it and the Green Wing are excellent for the table.

Weight of Green and Blue Wing Teal is very much the same. At the Snipery, 2 Green Wing weighed 26 ozs.; two others, 22 ozs., and again, 2 weighed 20 ozs.

Audubon puts the Blue Wing's weight at 10½ ozs.

RAIL.

The great Red-breasted rail, or fresh-water rail, "Rallus-Elegans" of Audubon.

This bird is a great runner, tho' lying very close at times, and hard to flush. A very handsome and interesting bird; very clumsy and sluggish in its flight, and therefore, no sport in shooting it.

I always shot them however when they came in my way, as they were excellent "en salmi," and the darkies enjoyed them very much, when I did not.

I think it corresponds in habits and also much in plumage to the European "Corn-crake," though a larger bird.

Audubon puts the weight of the male, "which is much larger than the female, at 25 ozs."; the female at 18 ozs. These weights are greater than those of the Snipery.

There were also on the marshes several varieties of smaller rail, which, however, I never shot.

Notably, the Sora rail, considered a great delicacy in Virginia and on the banks of the Delaware, a migrant beyond the limit of the Southern States·

the Virginia rail, the yellow-breasted rail and others of the species.

THE GARDE-SOLEIL OR AMERICAN BITTERN.

This bird, according to Audubon, is also a "migrant beyond the Southern States." He says: "Called in lower Louisiana "Garde-Soleil" because they say it will stand for hours with its eyes fixed on the orb of day."

This I have never seen, and I think Audubon was misled. On the contrary, I think it is so called because its haunts are in very thick cover of tall grass or weeds, where the rays of the sun, which it appears to avoid, never penetrate.

They have a strong scent and the dogs always pointed them. Very slow and lumbering on the wing, and so easy to hit as to afford no sport, but I always shot them, as I did the rail, when I came across them, as they were, like coons and possums, considered a great delicacy, and highly appreciated by the darkies of the Snipery.

Audubon's weight of them is 17½ ozs. That of the Snipery, much the same, 18½; though they vary very much in size and weight.

HARES.

Under this head I have put the animal I shot at the Snipery, though the common name for it, all over the country, is "rabbit"—a misnomer, for the rabbit is essentially a "Burrower," and this animal never burrows, but always has a form like a hare;

so it is clearly a small species of hare, as its habits are all those of that animal.

Audubon, in his "Quadrupeds of America," calls it "Lepus Sylvaticus" or "Gray Rabbit," but speaks of it as a hare. "The most common hare in the United States," he says, in describing it, and all naturalists seem to consider it, and so call it.

I killed at the Snipery two kinds of hare. The "Lepus Sylvaticus" or "Gray Rabbit" or "common hare" to give it all the names by which Audubon calls it as above, and also the "Lepus Aquaticus" or "Swamp Hare" of Audubon, a larger species.

To my knowledge, there are no wild rabbits in the Southern States of America.

I have, in these pages, often quoted Audubon, for almost always, during my shooting career, I had by me a copy of his works, which I found most interesting and useful in identifying, from time to time, many of the birds and animals I shot, which I could always do, not only by his description, but also by his beautiful and correct drawings.

I think, however, he is now, for an exact scientist, somewhat out of date. For in the days in which he lived and wrote, locomotion was so slow and difficult in our country of great distances, in its then primitive state, that he did not enjoy the advantages and facilities of more recent ornithologists. And I think some of his statements, received perhaps at second-hand, are incorrect.

Be that as it may, he was quite correct enough for me, for, as I have said before, I do not pretend to any technical or scientific knowledge of ornithology, and Audubon always gave me what information I wanted.

Though he may have been to a certain extent inaccurate in some instances, he wrote so *con amore* and so genially and gave such graphic and picturesque descriptions of the birds he told of, that to me, not ambititious of more than a practical knowledge of the birds I shot, he was more attractive than his more accurate ornithological successors.

And now, like the old soldier who "shouldered his crutch and showed how fields were won," having flourished my pen and told how snipe were killed, I will say FAREWELL.